

**Afghan ex-king to return home**

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's exiled former king, Zahir Shah, plans to return to his war-devastated country, according to an envoy of his visiting Pakistan. The envoy, General Abdul Wali, the ex-king's son-in-law, whose visit has soured ties between Islamabad and Kabul, was also quoted in a newspaper interview published on Tuesday as calling for a traditional grand assembly to settle the Afghan crisis. "King Zahir Shah will return and will pass through Pakistan on his way to Afghanistan," the Dawn newspaper quoted Gen. Wali as saying. The red-carpet welcome extended to Gen. Wali in Pakistan since his arrival last Thursday has provoked a strong protest from President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government in Kabul, which says he should not have been invited without consulting Kabul. Islamabad has rejected the protest, saying it has no favourites among the squabbling Afghan faction leaders, who along with more than three million refugees, had made Pakistan their home during their 14-year guerrilla war against a Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

Volume 19 Number 5959

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 1995, SAFAR 7, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

**Israel, PLO set July 25 for full accord**

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday set a July 25 deadline for a full agreement to extend Palestinian autonomy across the West Bank.

Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo announced that they had reached an "understanding" on an outline of the second phase of autonomy: Transfer of civilian powers and army redeployment from Palestinian areas followed by elections.

"An understanding has been reached on main aspects of the interim agreement," Mr. Abed Rabbo told reporters.

However, the outline he provided was a rehash of the 1993 declaration of principles for self-rule without dates or clear indications of which areas would be evacuated by the Israeli army.

"Arafat and Peres instructed their delegations ... to enter into intense negotiations in order to finalise the interim agreement by July 25," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

After nearly three hours of talks Mr. Arafat said: "I hope the signing of the agreement will take place on July 25. I hope the prisoners will be freed as soon as possible."

Mr. Abed Rabbo said they had agreed that the interim accord would include a gradual release of Palestinian prisoners. But an Israeli ministerial committee would take

the decisions, he admitted.

About two-thirds of the estimated 6,500 prisoners have been on hunger-strike demanding their immediate release.

Mr. Peres gave a hint of some substance.

"We have agreed that in the major Arab cities and in most of the Arab villages there will not be any Israeli installations, neither police nor military."

He said there would be "special arrangements" for control of the roads, "again we have agreed in principle, but we have to write it down."

But he gave no dates, which Mr. Arafat had previously insisted on.

"I think we reached an agreement on most of the issues," Mr. Peres said. "There is still a great deal of work to be done. Some of them we reached in writing, some of them we reached orally."

The two delegations will start to put everything in writing and in order. We should make a supreme effort to conclude everything in writing before the end of this month, namely on July 25."

"We have made an important step forward and we should continue to work as seriously" to "conclude" an agreement.

The next phase of autonomy, after the Gaza Strip and West Bank enclave of Jericho, which Israel pulled out of in May 1994, is already



Tuesday's Conservative Party election which Mr. Major won (Reuters photo)

**Major wins party elections, reshuffles cabinet today**

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister John Major said on Tuesday he would stay in office until the next election after a "very clear-cut" victory over ex-cabinet minister John Redwood in a ballot for leadership of the Conservative Party.

Mr. Major told reporters he was putting the finishing touches to a reshuffle of his cabinet which he would announce on Wednesday.

Mr. Major announced the leadership ballot on June 22 after months of sniping from right-wing opponents who accused him of weak leadership.

"It was a very clear-cut decision. The election is now over," Mr. Major said. "It was a clear-cut choice and we have made that choice. The matter is now concluded.

"I shall now return to

Downing Street and will start this evening to reconstruct the government." He said he expected to announce the new cabinet line-up on Wednesday.

"I believe that has put to rest any question and any speculation about the leadership of the Conservative Party up to and beyond the next general election," Mr. Major said. The next election is due by mid-1997.

Mr. Major announced the leadership ballot on June 22 after months of sniping from right-wing opponents who accused him of weak leadership.

"The message I would give to every Conservative ... is that the time for division is over," Mr. Major said outside his office in Downing St.

(Continued on page 7)

in the contest for the leadership of the party, compared with 89 votes for John Redwood, the former Welsh secretary.

Eight Conservatives in the House of Commons abstained and 12 spoiled their ballot papers in an attempt to deny Mr. Major outright victory and force a second-ballot with new contenders.

However, Mr. Major handily exceeded the 50-vote margin he needed over Mr. Redwood party rules.

"The message I would give to every Conservative ... is that the time for division is over," Mr. Major said outside his office in Downing St.

(Continued on page 7)

Downing Street and will start this evening to reconstruct the government." He said he expected to announce the new cabinet line-up on Wednesday.

"I believe that has put to rest any question and any speculation about the leadership of the Conservative Party up to and beyond the next general election," Mr. Major said. The next election is due by mid-1997.

Mr. Major announced the leadership ballot on June 22 after months of sniping from right-wing opponents who accused him of weak leadership.

"The message I would give to every Conservative ... is that the time for division is over," Mr. Major said outside his office in Downing St.

(Continued on page 7)

**Gamaa claims attack on Mubarak; Sudan wants Halaib in World Court**

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's leading militant group on Tuesday said it had carried out last week's assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak and vowed "attempts to execute God's punishment on this criminal will not cease, God willing."

In a statement, the Gamaa

said Mr. Mubarak had taken "the same path in betraying Islam" as his predecessor Anwar Al Sadat, who was assassinated by extremists in 1981.

"He has violated the honour and spilled the pure blood of Muslim youth. He has imprisoned the aged, women and children. He has tortured young and old," the statement said.

Cairo has been claiming virtual victory since March over the Gamaa after killing much of its domestic leadership, breaking up a major new cell and continuing its attacks to a few towns in

south Egypt. The group trumpeted that the attack forced Mr. Mubarak "to return panic-stricken to Egypt where he began to babble expressions that showed how he lost his nerve."

A week-long media campaign in Egypt pumped up Mr. Mubarak's popularity by presenting him as the victim of a foreign plot and depicting Khartoum as a den of terrorism seeking to destabilise Egypt by supporting militants.

Egyptian Information Minister Sawsat Al Sherif, who has repeated Cairo's suspicions that Sudan's government was the real power behind the attack, said the identity of the gunmen was a secondary issue.

"Who planned this conspiracy, and who trained these elements?" he said when asked by reporters about an Ethiopian announce-

ment that five gunmen in the shooting were Egyptian.

The Gamaa, which said the Addis Ababa attack was its third attempt to kill Mr. Mubarak, said its efforts "to fulfil the law of God against this criminal will not be halted."

It called on the army and security forces "and all those who participate with this dictator and his oppressive measures against Islam and Muslims, to repent in front of God and to declare their innocence from all these cursed iniquities carried out by this dictator."

Sudan on Tuesday renewed its demand to take its long-running dispute with Egypt over the desert border triangle of Halaib to international arbitration.

Ghazi Salahedin Attabani, minister of state in the Foreign Ministry, told a news

(Continued on page 7)

from about \$450 per tonne to \$1,100 since May 1994.

The government, which levies a 25 per cent customs duty on newsprint, initially offered a reduction of 50 per cent, but the newspaper establishment said it was not enough to balance the price increase.

With the latest decision, the prices of the dailies will remain the same — 150 fils each — while an increase in advertisement costs which went into effect three months ago will remain unchanged.

In its session on Tuesday, the Council of Ministers approved a memorandum of mutual understanding between the Royal Jordanian and the British Airways to increase the number of flights between London and Amman to eight every week.

**Israelis plan to launch Dead Sea ferry**

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Jewish entrepreneur is planning to launch a daily ferry service linking Israel and Jordan over the Dead Sea this year. A 40-tonne vessel is now undergoing repairs at Jaffa port awaiting the political go-ahead from Jordan, owner Motto Gonon told AFP. "It looks like we should get permission. Both sides are interested in the scheme," he said. It would be on one of the first private projects between the two neighbours to come to fruition since they signed peace and opened their borders last October. Mr. Gonon has two Israeli partners as well as a Jordanian businessman involved in the project. The ship, called Tot's Wife, would take a maximum of 110 passengers from kibbutz Ein Gedi in Israel to the Ma'in hot springs in Jordan. Mr. Gonon is well aware not only of the political problems, but also the difficulties of sailing on the lake. He has operated the only vessel on the Dead Sea for the last 15 years, a marine research ship. It is the lowest spot on earth at more than 400 metres below sea level and temperatures soar above 40°C during the summer. The salt concentration is about 30 per cent compared to four per cent for normal sea water. There is no marine life and it is impossible for swimmers to sink.

**Peace means using resources for non-military means — King**

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that channelling of resources for non-military purposes could be achieved through the establishment of peace, noting that a just and comprehensive peace can put the entire region at the threshold of a new era.

In an address to the annual Arab conference on management held at Bradford University and read out on his behalf by His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, the King said the demographic facts in the Middle East make it incumbent on all concerned not to disregard the great population growth in the region.

The King focused on labour and education and the need for a comprehensive development of the infrastructure.

The World Bank has

estimated that in 15 years' time the population of Israel will have ensured an income as high as the gross income of the entire Arab region, he said.

Against such a disparity in income, the sustainability



Prince Talal Ben Mohammad

of peace, is questioned, he said. It also undermines human development and the peace building process, he added.

King Hussein said it is through global and regional commitment that the Middle East region can be rebuilt. The King highlighted the importance of the Middle East and North Africa's economic summit which will be held in Amman in October in efforts to rebuild the Middle East.

The King noted the importance of administrative development plays a crucial role in achieving that end, whether in terms of protection of environment or investment or strategic planning or marketing.

At the conference, Prince Talal received an honorary doctorate awarded to the King by the university.

**Kabariti, de Charette discuss ties, peace and Iraq situation**

PARIS (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Tuesday met in Paris with his French counterpart Harve de Charette.

In statements to the press following the meeting, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan was interested in establishing a Jordanian-French dialogue which will include politics, economy, culture and security and to crown this dialogue with signing a partnership deal with the European Union.

The minister, who is accompanying His Majesty

King Hussein on a visit to France, said an official Jordanian economic delegation will soon visit France to discuss Jordanian debts to Paris in detail.

Mr. Kabariti said his talks with the French minister dealt with the Middle East and North Africa economic summit which will be held in Amman and a conference of the Mediterranean countries which will be held in Barcelona later this year. The two events will be major points in launching cooperation among the countries of the Middle

**Cabinet extends exemption from customs duties for newsprint**

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Tuesday decided to grant customs exemption for limited quantities of newsprint for the rest of this year, after granting a similar exemption in the first half of this year.

Total exemption for newsprint from customs duties is a long-standing demand of the Jordanian press, which is straining under a more than 120-per cent increase in the international prices of newsprint.

The decision, which averts a planned increase in the newsstand prices of all Jordanian dailies, was announced after a Council of Ministers meeting chaired by acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf

Rawabdeh.

The announcement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the newsprint imports of the establishments which print the Arabic-language dailies Al Ra'i, Al Dustour and Al Aswad were exempted from customs duties. Al Ra'i could import 3,300 tonnes, Al Dustour 2,200 and Al Aswad 800 tonnes, the decision said.

It said the three establishments in turn have to reflect the exemption on the printing of other publications in their presses. These include political parties' newspapers and other weeklies and magazines.

The publishing houses has been lobbying the government for a total exemption from customs duties for news

## Iraq turns to former Soviet bloc friends

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq is increasingly turning to its traditional allies in the former Soviet bloc to build support for lifting the five-year-old U.N. economic embargo.

"The contacts between Iraq, Russia, China, Bulgaria, Cuba and Vietnam mark the start of the success of our campaign aimed at breaking the embargo," the ruling Baath Party daily Al Thawra said.

Baghdad is seeking pledges for business contracts hoping they will step up pressure for an end to the sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

When a Bulgarian delegation returned to Sofia last week from a visit to Baghdad, Deputy Prime Minister Khril Tsochev said Iraq had agreed to reimburse its \$1.512 billion debt to Bulgaria with shipments of oil.

Economic cooperation accords worth around \$700 million were also signed with Iraq, although the embargo has to be lifted for them to take effect, Mr. Tsochev added.

Iraq, whose ruling Baath Party was founded on the socialist model, had privileged economic relations with the former Soviet bloc and must pay back considerable debts.

Russia, a permanent U.N. Security Council member seeking an easing of sanctions, signed a preliminary accord with Baghdad last month to develop oil fields, which have a capacity of one million barrels of crude per

## Kuwait to probe 'arms graft'

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's government will ask state prosecutors to look into parliamentary allegations of waste and corruption in arms purchases, newspapers reported on Tuesday.

The cabinet took the decision, which could lead to legal action, in response to a parliamentary report that said civil and military officials had lost tens of millions of dollars through ineptitude and possible graft. Al Watani newspaper and the English-language Arab Times and Kuwait Times reported.

Opposition Deputy Ahmad Baqer, who headed the assembly probe published in April, was quoted as welcoming the government's decision "as a step in the right direction."

The report called for judicial steps to punish the alleged wrongdoing. It found contracts awarded to the most expensive bidder, arms bought but left unused and frequent squandering.

An Iraqi official said:

"Lifting the embargo is only a question of time, which explains why several countries want to strengthen their ties with Iraq."

Sahab Mukhtar, chairman of the official Association for Peace, Friendship and Solidarity, warned "countries that are slow will lose a unique chance to restore their cooperation with Iraq."

In March Baghdad hosted an oil conference attended by 200 European officials and business leaders.

## Atto accuses Libya of aiding Aideed

NAIROBI (AFP) — Somali faction leader Osman Hassan Ali Atto Tuesday accused Libya of meddling in Somalia's internal affairs, claiming that it had sent a delegation to Mogadishu to assess the military needs of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed.

Mr. Atto, Gen. Aideed's former financier, ousted the warlord last month at the head of the Somal National Alliance.

"We know Libya has sent a military delegation to assess the needs of Aideed's self-proclaimed government on Mogadishu which we are closely monitoring," said Mr. Atto in a statement released here.

Gen. Aideed had himself elected "interim president" of Somalia by his supporters last month, and appointed "ministers," but his "government" remains unrecognised by the rest of the world.

"We strongly condemn the hasty move by the Libyan

government to militarily aid Aideed and his government which will only prolong the suffering of the Somalia leader," Mr. Atto added.

Clan militias fought with artillery guns, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine-guns in the streets of south Mogadishu Monday, leaving at least three dead and four wounded.

The fighting between the Murasade and Abgal subclans of the Hawiye in the Bemuda district, which they share, was the heaviest since May, when more than 20 people died, most of them bystanders.

Residents said the fighting broke out as a result of "banditry."

"We're running short of medicines, and if we don't receive new stocks soon we won't be able to do much," said Hassan Osman, a doctor.

Some Sudanese feared their Egyptian hosts would take to heart Mr. Mubarak's threats to retaliate and vent their anger out on them.

"The Egyptian people are very emotional. They wait for the word from their government," said Miryam Mdana, another southern Christian.

"The first day after the attack we were very worried people would do something to us," she said. "But then the next day Mubarak went on television and said the Sudanese people are goodhearted and we fell more at ease."

"We have two hopes: That the Egyptian government and people realise we are different from the regime and that there be no war," said Abdulla Tayeb, a northern Muslim who has lived in Egypt for two years.

"I think of Egypt as my home," said Mohammad Abdul Latif, who came to

## Lebanese couples told to have pre-nuptial tests to fight AIDS

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's Ministry of Health is urging couples to have pre-nuptial medical tests in a bid to avoid the spread of AIDS, a disease considered taboo in this multi-confessional society.

The government launched a new AIDS-awareness campaign in April but only broadcast an accompanying advert at the start of summer, coinciding with the traditional wedding season in Lebanon and the return of immigrants for holidays.

The television ad sponsored by the ministry shows two beaming newlyweds. A stern message warns that pre-wedding tests are compulsory.

The tests, including screen-

ing for the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) virus, were ordered last year by Health Minister Marwan Hamade.

A total of 293 people suffer from AIDS in Lebanon.

"This is far less than the real numbers," Mr. Hamade said, expecting the number to reach 7,000 by the year 2000. Experts said between 2,000 to 2,500 people were HIV positive, that is suffering from the virus which can lead to AIDS.

"In the past two years we have noted that eight out of 10 cases of HIV positive are detected among Lebanese returning from Africa. Before the victims belonged to risk-categories such as drug addicts or homosexuals," Mr.

Hamade said.

"Lebanon is facing an African 'SidaGate,'" he said, using the French acronym for AIDS. Several hundreds of thousands of Lebanese live in Africa.

Lebanese nationals returning from Africa, unknowingly carry the AIDS virus. The most dangerous thing is that these people most often come back to marry. That's why we imposed a pre-nuptial certificate," he told AFP.

According to officials, women represented two to three per cent of all cases at the start of the 1990s while now they are 18 per cent.

"Our only other weapon to fight back, besides the pre-nuptial certificate — is

Health Minister Marwan Hamade.

# Home News



Minister of Information Khaled Karaki (centre), Director General of Jordan Radio and Television Ihsan Ramzi (left) chat with acting Ministry of Information Secretary General Fayed Qudah prior to their departure Tuesday for an Arab information ministers' conference in Cairo (Petra photo)

## Arab ministers in Cairo for talks on information relations, media image

AMMAN (Petra) — Information Minister Khaled Karaki Tuesday arrived in Cairo at the head of an official delegation to attend the two-day meeting of the Council of Arab Information Ministers which convenes there today.

In a departure statement, Dr. Karaki said Jordan, along with other Arab nations, seeks to draw up new perceptions for Arab information relations.

"We are at an historic junction with the world in witnessing drastic changes and

transitions," the minister said.

Dr. Karaki stressed that the Jordanian democratic march has provided firm constitutional pillars for the country's information apparatus, such as freedom of expression and opinion.

Dr. Karaki said Arab information ministers will discuss topics such as freedom-related issues, proposals on aspects of an Arab information strategy, the role of information in fighting extremism, in the protection

The Jordanian delegation includes Director General of Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Ihsan Ramzi and Fayed Hadidi from the Ministry of Information.

## Royal Decree endorses Higher Council of Transport

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday endorsing the Higher Council of Transport regulation approved earlier by the Cabinet. The council will advance and evaluate the performance of the transport sector. It is expected to plan transport policies and follow up their implementation. It was also entrusted with setting up committees on civil aviation, road, railway and marine transport, and a follow up panel. Chaired by Minister of Transport Samir Kawar the council includes the ministers of planning, finance, interior, tourism, public works, the secretary general of the Ministry of Transport, directors general of the Jordanian Ports Corporation, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Aqaba Railway Corporation, the Public Transport Corporation as well as three representatives of the private sector.

## Businessmen discuss peace, national economy

AMMAN (Petra) — Businessmen here Tuesday said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty will have positive effects on the Kingdom's economy if Israel lives up to its commitment towards establishing peace in the region and if the United States provides the necessary political and economic support needed to ensure the success of the peace process.

Vice President of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association Fakhri Bilbeisi spoke of the peace process as presenting a new phase of challenge for the region.

Mr. Bilbeisi noted that the national economy will face

this challenge by ensuring high-quality products, cutting down on the costs, providing the necessary cadres and developing all sectors of production.

He also called for reviewing the economic, financial and trade legislation package, and for removing all obstacles to investment as well as overcoming bureaucracy.

Mr. Bilbeisi voiced his support for the revitalisation of inter-Arab economic cooperation agreements and the creation of incentives for investments.

One of the positive effects,

he said, of the peace process will be the development of regional, environmental, tourist, water and industrial projects.

According to JBA board member Wa'el Ghneim, the economy is currently suffering from a shortage of cash liquidity due to the high demand for purchasing shares in shareholding companies, hotels and tourist companies.

Mr. Ghneim said he hoped that the peace process will have a positive impact on the national economy in order to bring an end to the economic recession.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

Genetics, the study of genes, is relatively new science.

"Discovery of the 46 chromosomes present in human cells was only made in 1956," Dr. Saudi said. Chromosomes are structures

forming the bulk of a cell nucleus, and carrying tens of thousands of genes, which are responsible for the development of all the tissues and organs as well as the external features of the body.

As "units of inheritance", according to Dr. Saudi, genes control the emergence of hereditary characteristics and carry instructions for the development of cells, by providing information about making proteins.

"Our meeting will be informative and will serve to bring genetic concepts to reality for local physicians and paramedical personnel as well as maintain contacts between Jordanian and French experts for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and the latest advancements," said Dr. Saudi.

## Sri Lanka Navy destroys rebel boats in sea battle

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan Navy fast-attack craft chased and blew up at least three Tamil Tiger guerrilla boats in a fierce sea battle off the rebels' Jaffna stronghold in the north early Tuesday, military sources said.

Air Force Pucara ground-attack aircraft and helicopter gunships attacked the flotilla of guerrilla "Sea Tiger" boats when they beached after the navy repulsed a rebel attack, they said.

"At least 10 terrorist craft came close to attack our fast-attack craft (FAC) providing escort off Jaffna," a senior military officer told Reuters.

"Our FACs intercepted and destroyed three terrorist boats. We saw them catching fire and exploding," he said.

"Terrorists in the boats would have died but we don't know how many."

The fight with the rebel boats occurred off Polikandi, between the rebel naval base at Velluturai and Point Pedro, on Jaffna's northern coast, sources said.

The navy convoy, consisting of two landing craft

escorted by three Dvora-class fast-attack craft, was heading towards the Velluturai army camp on Jaffna's last coast from the Kankesanturai Navy Base on the north coast.

The navy proceeded on its mission after repulsing the attack, the military officer said. One sailor was injured in the clash.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east, have been building up their navy to pose a threat to Sri Lanka's tiny navy.

The government navy has been forced to step up escorts for its handful of slow-moving landing craft, which supply isolated army outposts on the northern coast, because of the threat of Sea Tiger suicide boats.

Last week, 1,000 Sea Tigers in a flotilla of armoured boats staged an amphibious raid on the army's Mandaithivu Island base, west of Jaffna, killing more than 100 soldiers while losing 50 rebels.

Navy FACs destroyed another rebel boat off nervously early Monday morning, a military spokesman said.

Two rebels were killed in an army ambush Tuesday morning in the northeastern Mullaitivu area, he said.

Jaffna residents said the rebels could step up attacks to mark "Black Tiger week" this week in which they commemorate the deaths of rebels from their Black Tiger suicide squads.

Black Tiger suicide squads are believed responsible for assassinating former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The government appealed Tuesday to newspaper editors to avoid publishing news stories that could hurt the morale of soldiers in their war against Tamil rebels.

The appeal comes when President Chandrika Kumaratunga has warned that she may curb press freedom because of what she regards as

irresponsible reporting.

"We want peace. To achieve it we have to fight," Media Minister Dharmastri Senanayake told editors of local newspapers at a meeting.

The minister requested the editors not to write stories that could create communal problems between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

A few days ago, the military suffered its worst setback when Tamil rebels attacked a northern army camp on June 28 and killed 110 people including six civilians.

"We take the war situation seriously and the media should play a responsible role. Trying to analyse military secrets is advantageous to the enemy," the president told a meeting in May.

Meanwhile, opposition legislators Tuesday staged their first sit-down protest outside Sri Lanka's parliament calling for President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government to deliver on election pledges.

"Not only did Mr. Lu, who

## Tension high ahead of Armenia elections

YEREVAN (AFP) — Armenians go to the polls Wednesday for the first time since Communist rule crumbled to elect a new parliament amid high tension following the banning of several opposition parties.

Several thousand people massed Monday evening at central Liberty Square to the capital Yerevan, as they have done over past few weeks, to demand that these parties be allowed to take part in the elections.

Dozens of people have set up camp in the square, under the red, blue orange Armenian flag, to call for the release of their relatives. 14 members of the banned opposition Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun), jailed for terrorism. A 15th member died in prison in May.

The opposition has accused President Levon Ter-Petrosian, a moderate nationalist voted to power in October 1991, of staging an about-face on democracy by banning certain opposition parties.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian and his supporters were the first along with the Baltic states to heed calls for liberty and national identity in the late 1980s which helped accelerate the demise of the Soviet empire.

"The leaders in power in Armenia are showing their true colours today, we can't talk about a democratic campaign, and we cannot rule out the possibility that they will just keep up the facade of an opposition after the elections," said Vazgen Manukyan, leader of the opposition National Democratic Union.

The government denies any totalitarian intent, and says that Wednesday's polls will be carried out strictly according to the law, outgoing president of the National Assembly Bobekan Araktsyan said.

The 2.3 million registered voters will choose among 13 parties to elect 190 deputies. The Electoral Commission has banned candidates from nine other parties, citing irregularities in their registration.

The new parliament will replace the current Supreme Soviet elected in the summer of 1990.

A referendum on a new post-Soviet constitution — which will recognise fundamental freedoms and set up a parliamentary republic — is scheduled for the same day.

Since 1993 the opposition has organised huge anti-government rallies, bringing tens of thousands of people into the streets of Yerevan. The nervous political climate has been exacerbated by last December's banning of Dashnaktsutyun, the oldest political party founded in 1890, which emerged in 1991 from the decades of clandestinity under Communist rule.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian has accused the party of protecting a branch of the underground paramilitary, charged with involvement in political assassinations and drug trafficking.

## Shuttle, Mir go their separate ways

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — After five days of speeding around Earth under the flags of two nations, shuttle Atlantis and space station Mir separated Tuesday with a gentle push and moved into their own orbits again.

But first, two cosmonauts left the Mir in a small Soyuz transport ship and moved 76 metres (250 feet) away to record the undocking of the shuttle and space station which had flown as one large spacecraft — the largest ever.

The three spacecraft performed an intricate ballet, sparkling in the sunshine against the blackness of space.

The sun was so bright that it obscured the docking target on Mir, but the Soyuz was reattached successfully to the station. The cosmonauts had to contend with a shutdown of the main computer on Mir, which in turn failed to turn on the station lights.

"Atlantis, it has been an inspiring visit with our neighbours in space," said mission control.

"We look forward to returning," the Houston Control Centre added.

"We agree with that... We agree 100 per cent," Gibson replied.

The space-to-ground radio link crackled with several sets of conversations, with mission control in Kaliningrad speaking to the cosmonauts on Soyuz in Russian.

After the 45-minute prayer session, the Dalai Lama planted a pipal tree sapling in front of the statue. The Bud-dha is believed to have attained salvation under a pipal tree.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and transcendence, inner and outer disciplines and sciences and spirituality, will include internationally prominent academics, organisers said.

Organisers said they had chosen India as the venue for the festivities.

This honour has been given to India because His Holiness is an incarnation of Lord Buddha and India is the land of Buddha," Lakan Mehrotra, an organiser, said.

The Tibetan god-king, seated on a yellow brocade prayer mat, led a baritone chant by some 40 monks in traditional maroon and saffron robes, facing a large golden statue of the Buddha amid burning incense and the accompaniment of prayer

cymbals.

After the 45-minute prayer session, the Dalai Lama planted a pipal tree sapling in front of the statue. The Bud-dha is believed to have attained salvation under a pipal tree.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

violence and compassion in

the 21st century, time and

transcendence, inner and

outer disciplines and sciences

and spirituality, will include

internationally prominent

academics, organisers said.

The Dalai Lama's birthday falls on July 6 but is being commemorated by three days of seminars and cultural programmes in honour of the 1989 Nobel Peace laureate.

The four seminars, on non-

# World News

## Anti-nuclear protest hits French embassy in Rome

ROME (R) — Five activists in red boiler suits abseiled down the front of the French embassy in Rome Tuesday and unfurled a banner condemning President Jacques Chirac's decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Reuters journalists outside the 16th century Farnese Palace, where the embassy is housed in central Rome, said the protesters from the environmental group Greenpeace used ropes to hang from the facade, part of which was designed by Michelangelo.

Dressed in red boiler suits, they unfurled a banner which showed the French leader with a radioactive symbol above his head and carried the words "stop Chirac."

They were joined on a balcony of the embassy by Gianfranco Nannini, one of Italy's top rock stars, who had entertained about 200 demonstrators in the square with songs including "Monsieur Le President" from a truck in front of the building.

The six were brought down from the balcony on a fire engine ladder and had their identities noted by police. Nannini descended amid cheers after grabbing hold of the French flag.

Minor scuffles between police and demonstrators occurred during the one-hour protest.

French diplomats were not

available for comment. Mr. Chirac's announcement last month to resume tests from September on the Mururoa Atoll whipped up a storm of protest throughout the South Pacific and elsewhere.

Australia and New Zealand have taken the strongest stands against the resumed French testing, freezing defence ties with Paris and cludging the prospects of French defence contractors.

Rainbow Warrior II, the greenpeace flagship, set course on Monday for Mururoa.

About a hundred testing opponents saw the boat off as it left Tahiti for the sail of about a thousand kms (600 miles), which Greenpeace estimated would take three of four days.

"We sail for Mururoa with the knowledge that the Tahitians and millions of people around the world support us and demand an end to nuclear testing everywhere and forever," Greenpeace official Jean-Luc Thierry said as the ship left Papeete, according to a statement released by Greenpeace France in Paris.

President Chirac "has seriously underestimated public opposition to the resumption of nuclear testing in France, in Tahiti and at the international level," Mr. Thierry said.

On board were 31 anti-nuclear activists and journalists

including left-wing bishop Jacques Gaillot, fired from his French diocese by Pope John Paul this year, and Polynesian independence campaigner Oscar Temaru.

Greenpeace's goal is to sail to Mururoa by July 10, the 10th anniversary of the bombing and sinking of the original Rainbow Warrior by French secret agents in New Zealand.

French officials have said they will not allow the ship and its whale crew within 12 nautical miles of the atoll.

Mr. Chirac's approval of eight nuclear tests has angered many Tahitians and other South Pacific residents fearful of radiation contamination and environmental damage.

It also has sparked new life into the French Polynesian independence movement.

France is the South Pacific's last colonial power and controls three territories, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

Independence movements in the territories have traditionally been linked to nuclear testing, rising at the height of opposition to testing in the 1980s and ebbing after the testing Moratorium adopted by Paris in 1990.

The Rainbow Warrior II had arrived in the Tahitian capital Papeete a day earlier, where anti-testing protesters had virtually paralysed the

city for the previous three days by blockading major roads and clogging the streets with marches.

But the road blocks lifted Sunday, allowing a return to normality on the island by the time the Rainbow Warrior left.

In Perth, Australia, police Tuesday charged a man and a woman over last month's firebombing of the French consulate in the West Australian city.

The firebombing followed France's decision to resume nuclear testing in the Pacific.

University student Bosco Boskovic, 20, and an unemployed woman, Mayak Catts, 21, have been charged with damage by fire, detective John Gibson told reporters in Perth.

No one was hurt in the June 17 blaze, immediately claimed as the work of a group calling itself the Pacific Popular Front.

Investigations showed the group was a creation of the accused, Mr. Gibson said.

"I think this was something they made up on the spur of the moment," he said. Boskovic and Catts are being held in police custody and will appear in court in Perth Wednesday morning, he added.

"I would suggest the anti-nuclear movement was not involved in this," Mr. Gibson said.

French diplomats were not

## Judge gives Berlusconi a reprieve until September

MILAN (R) — A judge Tuesday postponed until September a decision on whether Italy's former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi should stand trial on corruption charges connected to his media empire.

Judicial sources said Judge Fabio Paparella, presiding over the committal hearing, had agreed to a request from defence lawyers for Mr. Berlusconi and 20 other suspects for more time to study new prosecution documents.

Judge Paparella last month also turned down a request by investigating magistrates for the businessman-turned-politician to stand trial over alleged tax fraud on a property deal.

His latest decision meant Mr. Berlusconi, who did not attend the closed-door hearing but was represented by two lawyers in court, must wait until Sept. 20 for a decision that could boost or bust his political aspirations.

It also dimmed the pros-

pect of an early general election in the autumn. Political commentators believe Mr. Berlusconi may not want to risk a return to the polls with the possibility of a trial hanging over him.

They said a decision to prosecute Mr. Berlusconi could kill off his short but spectacular political career while a move in his favour would boost his campaign to regain the premiership.

A fresh hearing cannot be held before September as Italian courts close from July 15 to Sept. 15.

The delay should also allow a batch of documents on bank accounts, which were seized recently in Switzerland, to be returned to Italy for examination before a decision is made on whether to commit Mr. Berlusconi to trial.

He denied any knowledge of the payments, totalling 330 million lire (\$200,000), at the time they were made and says he is the victim of a political witch hunt by magistrates.

The best known of them, former magistrate Antonio Di Pietro who quit the clean hands team last December, was himself questioned for 18

hours Sunday by magistrates investigating whether he had acted illegally in his enquiries.

Lawyers for Finance Police General Giuseppe Cerciello have accused Mr. Di Pietro of using unorthodox methods to get suspects to make incriminating statements against him and Mr. Berlusconi.

Those accused with Mr. Berlusconi include his younger brother and business associate Paolo, Fininvest tax adviser Salvatore Sciascia and senior members of the Finance Police.

A separate communal session opened in Milan Monday to decide whether senior managers of Mr. Berlusconi's advertising company Publitalia should stand trial for corruption.

In that case, prosecutors have filed charges against 37 people, including former managing director Marcello Dell'Utri, of false accounting, tax evasion and misappropriation of funds.

## 8 more killed in Karachi; media crackdown escalates

KARACHI (AFP) — Eight people were killed by gunfire Tuesday as security forces continued their search for arms and gunmen entered a third day, the officials said.

Six other people were killed by snipers in other parts of the city, as violence persisted despite agreements between the government and

Orangi district, where a siege by some 1,000 police and paramilitary soldiers to seize illegal arms and gunmen entered a third day, the officials said.

The intensity of the violence appears to have de-

clined after last month's bloodshed in which more than 350 people were killed.

Newspaper industry sources said the government of southern Sindh province had withdrawn publishing permission for 120 planned newspapers and banned two more evening papers in Karachi, capital of Sindh.

## Japan ruling parties defend odd-ball coalition

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling parties hit back Tuesday at critics of their left-right coalition, saying they were introducing a new mood of harmony and reunifying the country as smoothly as ever.

"An age of coalition governments has begun, and though we don't know how long this will continue, people should think what the right combination of parties is," said Yoshiro Mori, secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"A coalition should include the biggest party," he said.

Mr. Mori was speaking as parties were starting their

campaign this week for the July 23 elections to the upper house, which is less powerful than the lower house.

However, lawmakers are aware the poll is the first at the national level since the LDP lost its grip on power in 1993, and will be the public's first direct judgement of the three-party coalition government.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has said the coalition will receive a renewed mandate from the people if it maintains the 75 seats it holds out of the 126 at stake. But senior officials in his Socialist Party have said he should step down if the party is crushed.

The cabinet is also accused of being uneven. Although the LDP, the largest party in parliament, is the dominant force in policy making, Mr. Murayama is a Socialist.

Mr. Mori said coalition politics was good for the nation. "For a long time there was vicious opposition between the LDP and the Socialists," he said. "Now we

look for points in common." The parties have so far managed to patch up even their worst spats, including last month's row over the wording of a resolution to commemorate 50 years since the end of World War II, and the Socialists had opposed it fiercely.

The cabinet is also accused of being uneven. Although the LDP, the largest party in parliament, is the dominant force in policy making, Mr. Murayama is a Socialist.

Mr. Mori said coalition politics was good for the nation. "For a long time there was vicious opposition between the LDP and the Socialists," he said. "Now we

look for points in common." The parties have so far managed to patch up even their worst spats, including last month's row over the wording of a resolution to commemorate 50 years since the end of World War II, and the Socialists had opposed it fiercely.

The cabinet is also accused of being uneven. Although the LDP, the largest party in parliament, is the dominant force in policy making, Mr. Murayama is a Socialist.

If one party in the coalition became much larger than the others, the coalition would cease to function properly," he told a news conference. "The coalition government is becoming more and more like a single party."

## Cambodian army, rebels battle near Battambang

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (AFP) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas and government troops were locked in fierce battle Tuesday, with the rebels seizing a key government outpost as they attempt to advance on Battambang, the country's second-largest city, military official said.

Having fought to within 20 kilometres of the north-western city of Battambang the Khmer Rouge guerrillas pulled back, but have secured the last government position on the road to the rebels' major stronghold near the Thai border, military and police officials said Tuesday.

The fighting was described as "intense" with the rebels, supported by seven tanks, 82 millimetre mortars and 75 and 122 millimetre artillery, firing several anti-aircraft

guns captured from the army. Casualty figures were unclear from the fighting, which began early Monday. At least eight soldiers have been injured in hand-to-hand combat and four soldiers listed as missing in action, according to officials in Battambang.

At least six civilians have also been injured, their wounds attributed to artillery shells, the officials said.

In addition, at least 1,000 villagers, who recently returned to nearby villages have fled again, and were taking temporary shelter behind government lines.

The rebel's northeastern advance, began early Monday on either side of National Route 10 and at one point put them within 20 kilometres of

Chan Kosal. "We don't know how the situation will change tomorrow, but we think it will not worsen. Our soldiers are doing their jobs very well."

The Khmer Rouge captured Treng, a small collection of hills and military barracks along the road to the rebels' stronghold at Pailin, in early May and held it for a week before government reinforcements from other areas of the country arrived and helped to drive them out.

Reinforcements did not appear to be heading to the front line Monday or Tuesday, and stockpiles of weapons and ammunition stored near the Battambang airport seemed to be untouched.

The Khmer Rouge have not retreated but our forces

## S. Korean president sacks

### top aide after store collapse

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam sacked his influential right-hand man Tuesday in a partial reshuffle of his ruling camp.

The presidential office said the DLP Chairman Lee Choo-kyo was dismissed because he was seen as a threat to the president's authority.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the plush five-storey Sampoong store Thursday.

The outgoing secretary general was accused of leading

centre officials said. The disaster has left some 900 people injured, including 250 still in serious condition.

Political commentators predicted Tuesday's change would lead to a sweeping shake-up of the ruling camp to ease growing public anger triggered by the disastrous collapse of the



curried  
Me  
Kassay  
makes  
aw here  
way?

NOW known as associations members of a political party, these organizations have claimed more members. We shall see whether or not they have done so many functions as is Jordan's intent, accepting the standard admission by each of its graduates. This, in all its important functions, do thoroughly give further credence to what has been established projects that have many members over their heads, which would otherwise remain silent. Some say a monthly payment for housing goes to the member with the syndicate. One wonders if it has passed one day, members from the estates chosen.

the other hand, is where the members live let their members for instance, the government through a program in 1988, and up to 1991, that can set a standard of living, unless, in many cases, salaries remain at the cost of living, another vital service, associations, for instance, a good library, office, and office, are, however, the budget, amounting up to two million a month. That is the reach of the members. Had the members established good and up-to-date review, we have rendered a sizable service to others by giving them a chance to keep abreast of the latest developments in their respective fields. One would like to tick record the members for a recent meeting. The professionals appear to themselves as a legal and legal, and the executive, especially official branches, put together by three members who are members of the Israelites, thus leaving members of their

Without defining the members, of normalizing their respect for personal opinions, the decision was made. By which time the professionals, in turn, anyone else to demand for holding, a position incompatible with the principles that right can be established for carrying out those that are permanent laws of the country. This is a dangerous move, which, if performed, could lead to highly undesirable consequences. That may come next. What modes of thought, year may they change or prohibit in carrying out the law? How much time will start playing the game? Has Israel had the power to demand to disband the professional associations? In assuming the power of legislator, judge, and counselor, the association clearly responded and have no business what should they do? Their brother is in a position, it may be to review the rule that does not belong to the members of the association. Professional associations have the right to think positive, representative, and not conservative, for which it is published, and beyond its own business.

## Features

# In Gaza, the tale is of woe not misery

By G. H. Jansen

**GAZA** — Anyone who, at one time, may have admired Yasser Arafat, the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and even referred to him as "Mr. Palestine," as this correspondent and many of his colleagues did, should not go to Gaza, to see how the first Palestinian self-rule area is faring one year after Mr. Arafat's "return" to the Palestinian self-rule enclave.

Because in Gaza a visitor with any contact with the local people is overwhelmed by their endless stories of woe and misery, mostly caused by 27 years of neglect by the Israeli occupier, and by misgovernment and inefficiency, for which Mr. Arafat, as the supreme boss of the enclave, is directly responsible. But one does not expect the foreign occupier to be a benevolent ruler, and the Israelis certainly were not that. One does expect that the first Palestinian ruler of the first quasi-independent Palestinian area to make of it a model and an exemplar — which is a way it is — on how not to set about it.

Thus, the Israelis are responsible for the fact that there is no really safe drinking water in Gaza, because

the water supply is polluted.

So those who can afford it drink bottled mineral water brought at considerable expense, from Egypt. And the water supply is polluted because this city, or this large town of 350,000 has no underground sewage system: The untreated sewage either runs into the ground, directly or through septic tanks, or into the sea.

There are unpolluted water springs in the southern part of the Gaza Strip, and along the eastern, desert edge of the Strip, but that water is being pumped into the Israeli water system. And so far the self-rule authority, that is to say Mr. Arafat, has done nothing to regain this expropriated water for the citizens of Gaza to whom it rightly belongs.

The sewage going into the sea has killed off inshore fish and since the Israelis, for security reasons, do not allow Gaza fishermen to go more than nine miles from shore, what these fishermen do is go down the coast into Egyptian waters and there buy the catch, refrigerate it and then sell it in Gaza as their catch: And very nice fish it is too.

But it is Mr. Arafat and his ramshackle "authority" that must take the blame for the fact that tower blocks are now being built, one is 18 stories high, in or



Palestinians enjoy a day on the Gaza beach. The reopening of beaches is one of the limited benefits the self-rule and the PNA have brought to Gazans (AFP photo)

very near to the desperately poor run-down slums. Such buildings are in defiance of

a regulation that there should be no building of more than nine stories, but

for which Mr. Arafat himself signs special exemptions. And, what is more,

these high buildings too are not linked to any sewage system.

And who lives in these new tower blocks? The members of the "Authority," police or bureaucrats or rich individuals who can afford the rents. The housing situation in Gaza is very similar to that in Beirut, a lot of buildings but little or none to bring in the basic infrastructure.

Despite their many complaints, Gazans are unanimous in mentioning one positive advantage of self-rule: They no longer have to put up with the sight of Israeli soldiers and curfew, some of which lasted for days on end, and no shooting of young men in the streets for throwing stones.

In particular, after 27 years, Gazans can now stroll or bask or play on the beach which, again for "security reasons," was forbidden to them under the occupation. But they are also discovering that swimming is dangerous because of the untreated sewage in the sea. Also, because of administrative corruption, the Palestine Authority has allowed much of the beach to be fenced off from the public by new hotels, beach clubs and restaurants, which can afford the bribes. Thus, the proscribed freedom for Gazan families to stroll along the beaches in the cool of the evening does not compensate for the adverse aspects of the one-man rule of Yasser Arafat.

The Israelis are also insisting that all Gazan im-

## A capital in glory, a city in disgrace

By Sonya Ross  
and  
Mitchell Landsberg  
*The Associated Press*

**WASHINGTON** — The buses rumble up to the Washington monument, one after another, discharging respectful tourists onto a green and ordered landscape. They have come to see the U.S. capital, reflecting the best of what the U.S. can be.

But the Washington they don't see is an affront to American ideals.

This is Washington, D.C., in 1995:

— The police chief resigned, saying things were so bad that some officers couldn't file search warrants because they had run out of the proper forms.

— Department of Public Works crews were reduced until only six workers were left to cut city-owned grass. Near the U.S. Soldier's and Airmen's Home, weeds stand 1.5 metres high.

— A study found 42 per cent of the city's black male population in prison or jail, on probation or parole or being sought.

— Schools began late because of fire code violations and closed early to save money.

— The district building, the equivalent of city hall, ran out of toilet paper after the supplier complained he wasn't being paid.

"Here we are the richest

country in the world, our nation's capital, our big D.C. budget of \$3.2 billion (and we have) run out of toilet paper," lamented Mayor Marion Barry. "That's embarrassing."

— Four of the city's 15 dilapidated health clinics were closed due to lack of money at a time when the AIDS virus is spreading more quickly in Washington than any other major U.S. city. At D.C. General Hospital, help of last resort for the poor, two of the three doctors treating AIDS patients resigned.

The hospital has occasionally run short of medicine and bandages, and had to lay off 41 doctors.

— Trash has piled up for weeks in some neighbourhoods. Margaret Young, chairman of the Environmental Committee of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, says a park in her neighbourhood has "rat holes you could lose a small child down."

— The city's Public Housing Agency and Foster Care Programme have been put under federal receivership. One judge said the city's children were in "great danger" under the city's child welfare programme.

— It's just a mess, a total mess," said Vivian Tisdall, 69, who spent most of her life teaching school here. "I'd move in a minute, if I could."

A beatific ambience permeates all four of Washington's corners. In the city's very poor south-

east quadrant, just beside a Roman Catholic church called Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a rolling, grassy hill juts between two thickets of trees.

Straight ahead is the Washington Monument. To the left is the Capitol, the seat of Congress. Up and to the right, like a lone king on a chess board, is the National Cathedral.

By day, you can stand next to the church with the chirps of birds in your ears.

By night, it's an area best avoided. The evening is punctuated by gunfire, regular as rain. Drunken, drugged or bored people linger on nearly every corner. Fat rats waddle, into the street.

This hilltop is in anacostia, hitherto in the proud heritage of freed slaves, some of the abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Now it is isolated and ignored by the rest of the city, practically a pariah community.

She shares a house on Capitol Hill and loves it, although she is quick to note that she is an expert in martial arts and would not hesitate to use it.

"I like the fact that I can walk to work. I like the fact that I live on a block that is integrated, diverse.... I like the fact that I can get good bakery bread a few blocks away."

And yes, she admits to a thrill at living amid so much history.

A beatific ambience permeates all four of Washington's corners. In the city's very poor south-

from homicide to car theft, causing the city council to vote to impose a youth curfew.

Even the mayor has a criminal record. Marion Barry was recently returned to office after a four-year hiatus, some of which was spent in prison on drug charges.

Mr. Barry was reelected with overwhelming support from blacks and very little from whites.

This is because Washington, the city, is predominantly black. Washington, the political capital, is predominantly white. The two cities share some traits — an allegiance to the Redskins American football team, an inability to work when it snows — but they often coexist without connecting.

The District of Columbia was laid out by a black surveyor and many leading figures in African-American history have been associated with Washington.

Problems that no control board can solve drag at Washington.

But black Washington is in decline. While other cities grapple with white flight, the strongest demographic trend here over the past two decades has been black flight.

In 1970, 71 per cent of Washington's 757,000 people were black. By 1990, the black population had declined by 140,000 — blacks now account for 66 per cent of the city's residents.

Evidence has been accumulating of a breakdown in everyday services.

The Rape Crisis Centre came within 24 hours of closing. Volunteers finally passed the hat to keep it open.

In the last year, 559 police officers quit. There have been fewer arrests since the pay cut took effect in May.

Thirty-eight school principals took early retirement or just left.

After a school security aide was convicted of sexually molesting two students, the city auditor found that 53 of the schools' 211 security people had police records.

Private schools to which the district sends children needing special education said the pupils would not be welcomed back because the city hadn't paid the tuition.

Along with crime, a constant factor in the exodus of middle-class blacks is talk of a conspiracy.

"The plan" goes like this: The district's financial problems are being used by whites to undermine, and eventually drive out, Washington's black local government and its majority black population.

These fears were reinforced this year when Jack Kemp, a former secretary of housing and urban development, suggested making the District of Columbia a tax-free zone to spur economic development and create jobs.

If Mr. Kemp prevails, city Councilman John Ray predicted, "In 10 years all the rich folks would be in Washington, D.C., and all the poor folks would be in the suburban areas."

Nowhere does "the plan" feel more real than in Anacostia, with its stunning view of the city and its cheap real estate. Here, the conspiracy endures because of historical precedent: Georgetown.

The same Georgetown homes that blacks once occupied now are white-owned and worth millions. Businessman Leo Bernstein, 79, who got rich buying Georgetown real estate, now advises friends to buy property in Anacostia.

Race also permeates talk of local government in Washington, where a white Congress once held all the power — and now effectively does again.

Until 20 years ago, the city was ruled by federal government commissioners. The district gained limited home rule in 1975. But Congress never gave up full control — it still can veto the city's budget and its acts of its government.

From the start, Washington's infant government was hit with spending responsibilities, including health care and other services, without a large

enough tax base.

The district operates under two enormous handicaps: Congress won't allow it to impose an income tax on commuters and 57 per cent of the real estate is owned by the federal government, embassies, universities, churches and unlike-like — and thus tax-exempt.

The federal government pays \$60 million this year in lieu of taxes, nearly 20 per cent of the city's \$3.4 billion budget. But the payment, many people say, is arbitrary, patronising and insufficient.

Still, no one in Washington — not even Marion Barry — argues that the city has spent its money wisely. Tales of bureaucratic waste and inefficiency are part of D.C. lore.

For some, becoming the 51st U.S. state is the solution.

But statehood has no prospects. The district's fiscal crisis certainly isn't likely to persuade Congress that the city is ready to manage its own affairs.

If all else fails, it's clear the U.S. government isn't going to give up on Washington, D.C.

"It can't die," said Jack McLean, managing partner of the Greater Washington Initiative, who is paid to improve the image of metropolitan Washington. "It's the centre — not only of the region, but of the country — and they can't let it die."

Egyptian capital. Egypt also tried to refuse a loan with Ethiopia by denying it had accused the Addis Ababa security forces of acting as accomplices in the assassination bid.

"There were no Egyptian statements condemning or indicating the involvement of the Ethiopian security forces," Mr. Sherif told reporters. "On the contrary an official Egyptian source said earlier that we were certain that the Ethiopian authorities were concerned to reveal the reality and that we respect the secrecy of investigations," he added.

## Major wins party elections

(Continued from page 1)

Tony Blair, leader of the opposition Labour Party, doubted that Conservatives could pull together.

"Mr. Major hasn't come out on one side or another of his divided party... that drift and that lack of direction will simply continue," Mr. Blair said.

The fact that a third of his colleagues did not vote for him cast a cloud on Mr. Major's already fragile authority. Bill Cash, one of Mr. Major's prominent critics within the party, said was only a starting point for healing party rifts.

"We've got to strive to find that common ground," Mr. Cash said.

## Gamaa claims foiled attack

(Continued from page 1)

Sunday, Egypt was massing troops in and around Halabja prior to launching a military offensive to fully annex the area on the Red Sea border.

But he said on Tuesday Sudan did not favour military options to solve the dispute.

"Military options will not be successful to any party despite the strength of the Egyptian army, which has no one else but us to challenge after they solved their problem with Israel and could inflict huge losses on us," he said.

Last July, Sudan complained to the United Nations Security Council, accusing Cairo of avoiding talks on a peaceful settlement of their disagreements.

Sudanese President Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has also said Sudan is prepared to put the Halabja dispute to the International Court of Justice.

"We would like to go to the International Court of Justice because it has experience and well-known rules and traditions. But Egypt has to agree to go, as well."

The potentially oil-rich border area has been an issue of dispute between Sudan and Egypt since the 1950s.

Mr. Atahani, a senior member of the National Islamic Front — which is led by Sudan's spiritual mentor Hassan Al Tourabi — said on

claims said captured Gamaa militants had confessed to receiving arms from the National Islamic Front.

The four, seized as security forces found three arms caches in southern Egypt on June 24, told the state security court the front had financed the purchase of these arms and explosives and their shipment from Sudan to Egypt," the sources said.

In another twist, Egypt cut the number of flights to Cairo by the Sudanese national airline to two a week from four and stopped direct flights between Port Sudan and the

## Bosnian tension escalates

(Continued from page 1)

patched Igman to help protect peacekeepers under Siege.

They fired the mortar at Serb positions for the first time on Sunday to try to secure the Igman road, prompting a reprisal shelling of U.N. headquarters in Sarajevo that left four peacekeepers wounded.

Egyptian judi-

## Jordan recommended for offshore operations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A London-based team of analysts and economists is recommending Jordan to international investors as a strongly potential country in the Middle East to set up offshore operations.

The recommendation was contained in the 1995/1996 Report of Offshore Financial Centres and Services (OFC) prepared by a team headed by Milton Grundy and published by Campden Publishing Company. The part on Jordan was presented by Michael T. Dabitt and Thuraya H. Hudl, two Amman-based corporate attorneys.

The report is available by subscription only to worldwide readers.

Listing Jordan as an emerging centre for offshore companies, it says the Kingdom with highly educated human resources, is "geographically and politically positioned to play an important role in offshore business."

"The constant determination of Jordan to promote an economic system which gives primacy to private initiative and emulation based on reasonable competition has allowed it to take the path of sustainable growth, thus remedying structural imbalances and attracting fore-

ign investment," it said in an introduction.

Jordan is a contrast to the typical image of a country which attracts offshore businesses with low taxation needs to low governmental budgets and limited natural resources and industrial base, it said.

"This image is not representative of Jordan since substantial legislative and regulatory changes have moved the country away from the idea of being a pure tax haven to being a more sophisticated environment," assert the report.

Conceding that Jordan continues to face economic problems as a result of "underlying weaknesses" in the economy, the reports argue, however, that "the future seems promising, and Jordan is well-positioned to become a gateway for the West to the Middle East and further economic expansion."

Offshore business facilities to Jordan will serve three key purposes, it said, listing them as:

— Attracting international capital resources and facilitating their transfer to the Jordanian economy;

— Allowing Jordanian banks to benefit from the experience and expertise of major international banks;

— Stimulating the economies of the region by con-

tact with offshore services and contributing to the development of the countries in the region as a whole.

The legal structure in Jordan allows the operation of an offshore company as defined in the Companies Law No. 1 of 1989 and related regulations as "a public shareholding company of a partnership limited by shares or a limited liability company" which is registered in the Kingdom and carries out its operations outside the Kingdom.

The minimum capital for an offshore company offering insurance or banking services should not be less than JD 5 million, for a limited partnership JD 100.00 and a public shareholding company JD 500.00.

"Jordan has the highest standards of respectability, integrity and regulatory control," says the report. The Kingdom applies the following basic "mandatory operating conditions for any offshore company."

— The company must not execute any of its work in Jordan;

— It must invest not less than five per cent of its capital in the Kingdom in Jordanian securities;

— It must have an actual permanent office in Jordan;

— It must keep accounting books and files for its financial management work in Jordan and for its over-

seas work:

— Half of its employees must be of Jordanian nationality;

— The board of directors may meet outside the country, but a copy of the minutes of the meeting should be sent to the compiler of companies failure to do so does, however, have no bearing on the legality of the meeting).

The company should not raise capital from the local market and Jordanians cannot acquire shares in such companies through a public subscription in the local market.

Eight offshore companies have been registered in Amman, two of them in the insurance sector and the rest in trading.

"Jordan has the potential to rank first in the Near/Middle East region with the adoption of open trade policies, a long-term commitment to modernisation and a stable legal and regulatory environment," said the OFC report.

"Jordanian traders find political stability and peace with Israel to be the major pillars of a promising future for Jordan," it said. "Those using Jordan for transhipments contend that it is now the 'transit country.' After the peace treaty with Israel, Jordan will be strategically placed to link Asia with Europe...."

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab economies have started to recover and will likely register positive growth rates in 1995 after a decline caused by weak oil prices in the previous year, experts said on Tuesday.

As crude prices are expected to be nearly \$2 higher than in 1994, the oil sector in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will reverse a downward trend while the private sector is also projected to grow.

But sharp cuts in government spending, mainly in Saudi Arabia, are expected to depress the public sector and offset growth in other sectors.

"The improvement in oil prices this year means a positive growth rate for the energy sector in the GCC and this positively affects the private sector," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at the Saudi National Commercial Bank.

"But the government sector will likely decline due to rationalisation of expenditure in most member states. However, the economic outlook for 1995 is generally better than in 1994 although

there will be no high growth rates in nominal terms," he told AFP by telephone from Jeddah.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — produce around 13 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, providing them with the bulk of their income.

A drop in crude prices to around \$15.5 a barrel in 1994 from \$16.33 in 1993 depressed their gross domestic product (GDP) in current prices to around \$198.3 billion from \$205 billion.

While prices could weaken

in the third quarter, they will be propped up again by stronger seasonal demand in the last quarter, executives said, adding the level was expected to average around \$17 for 1995.

GCC states cut spending to around \$68.7 billion in 1995 from \$71.4 billion in 1994 as they bad assumed an oil price of around \$15 billion.

Economists said the actual 1995 deficit could be much lower if oil prices maintain their current level and member states did not hike expenditure.

"GCC economies will record positive growth rates to 1995 but at reasonable levels as oil prices have not increased sharply and the U.S. dollar has lost more than 20 per cent of its value against major world currencies," said Mohammad Al Asuni, chief economist at the Emirates Industrial Bank.

rates due to lower dollar rates enabled regional governments to increase borrowing and cut debt servicing.

"All these factors show there is more activity in the market and the economic situation is improving. But to be realistic, we should note that rationalisation of expenditure and other restructuring programme are casting their shadows on the economic situation," Mr. Azzam said.

GCC states cut spending to around \$68.7 billion in 1995 from \$71.4 billion in 1994 as they bad assumed an oil price of around \$15 billion.

Economists said the actual 1995 deficit could be much lower if oil prices maintain their current level and member states did not hike expenditure.

"GCC economies will record positive growth rates to 1995 but at reasonable levels as oil prices have not increased sharply and the U.S. dollar has lost more than 20 per cent of its value against major world currencies," said Mohammad Al Asuni, chief economist at the Emirates Industrial Bank.

## Gulf economy recovering in 1995

AMMAN (AFP) — Gulf Arab economies have started to recover and will likely register positive growth rates in 1995 after a decline caused by weak oil prices in the previous year, experts said on Tuesday.

As crude prices are expected to be nearly \$2 higher than in 1994, the oil sector in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will reverse a downward trend while the private sector is also projected to grow.

But sharp cuts in government spending, mainly in Saudi Arabia, are expected to depress the public sector and offset growth in other sectors.

"The improvement in oil prices this year means a positive growth rate for the energy sector in the GCC and this positively affects the private sector," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at the Saudi National Commercial Bank.

"But the government sector will likely decline due to rationalisation of expenditure in most member states. However, the economic outlook for 1995 is generally better than in 1994 although

there will be no high growth rates in nominal terms," he told AFP by telephone from Jeddah.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — produce around 13 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, providing them with the bulk of their income.

A drop in crude prices to around \$15.5 a barrel in 1994 from \$16.33 in 1993 depressed their gross domestic product (GDP) in current prices to around \$198.3 billion from \$205 billion.

While prices could weaken

in the third quarter, they will be propped up again by stronger seasonal demand in the last quarter, executives said, adding the level was expected to average around \$17 for 1995.

GCC states cut spending to around \$68.7 billion in 1995 from \$71.4 billion in 1994 as they bad assumed an oil price of around \$15 billion.

Economists said the actual 1995 deficit could be much lower if oil prices maintain their current level and member states did not hike expenditure.

"GCC economies will record positive growth rates to 1995 but at reasonable levels as oil prices have not increased sharply and the U.S. dollar has lost more than 20 per cent of its value against major world currencies," said Mohammad Al Asuni, chief economist at the Emirates Industrial Bank.

## Palestinian firm in \$400m housing projects

AMMAN (R) — A company backed by Palestinian and Arab investors said on Tuesday it would start two construction projects worth \$400 million in self-ruled Gaza by early 1996.

"We hope to submit the tenders to contractors at the end of the year and to start construction early next year after detailed designs are completed," said Nabil Sarraf, chairman of the Palestine Real Estate Investment Com-

pany.

The \$22 million capital company, 49 per cent owned by the Liberian-registered Palestine Development and Investment Company (PADICO), was set up in 1994 with expatriate and local Palestinian and Arab capital.

The two housing complexes, the biggest yet in Gaza, will be built on land provided by the Palestinian authority, running the Gaza Strip and Jericho since May

1994 under the terms of a 1993 peace accord between Israel and the PLO.

Construction will be phased over the next few years, Mr. Sarraf told Reuters.

The first project is a medium-high income 2,400-unit complex in the Matalha coastal area in northern Gaza on a 300,000 square metre site. It will cost some \$300 million and include a 360 room hotel, multipurpose hall and marina club.

A final accord with the

Palestinian authority on profit sharing and joint development of the plan is expected to be completed this week, Mr. Sarraf added.

The first project is a medium-high income 2,400-unit complex in the Matalha coastal area in northern Gaza on a 300,000 square metre site. It will cost some \$300 million and include a 360 room hotel, multipurpose hall and marina club.

A final accord with the

## IFAD, ISESCO sign agreement

ROME — The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) Monday signed a cooperation agreement to help promote agricultural and rural development objectives in Islamic countries members of both organisations.

ISESCO was established in Morocco in 1982, as a result of the third summit meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO) held in Taef and Mecca, Saudi Arabia, in 1981. The organisation endeavours to enhance cooperation among its 40 member states in the fields of education, applied science and advanced technology as well as cultural exchange with a view to achieving peace, security

and progress.

The IFAD-ISESCO cooperation agreement lays the basis for mutual support and cooperation to programmes and activities related to agricultural and rural development which are of common interest to both organisations.

The agreement will further the achievement of the objectives of both organisations particularly in promoting development objective the two organisations agree on reciprocal representation, exchange of information, further discussions of joint activities and coordination in the fields of common interest.

During the signing ceremony President Sultan highlighted the excellent relations that have existed between IFAD and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) secretariat, with whom a cooperation agreement was signed in 1983.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which boosted interest rates seven times during a one-year stretch concluded Feb. 1, is believed by many to be on the verge of changing course and cutting rates.

The Central Bank's policy-making federal open market committee meets Wednesday and Thursday to determine whether the slowdown is severe enough to warrant trimming rates now.

4585.15.

The Federal Reserve, which

## Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

## Bouncing cheques on the rise

The number of bouncing cheques during the first four months of 1995 rose by 5.1 per cent over the same period in 1994. The number of bouncing cheques in the period totalled 147,500, with a total value of about JD 135.4 million compared to 140,400 cheques with a total value of JD 120.3 million in the same period of 1994. This reflected a 12.52 increase in the value of bouncing cheques in 1995. The highest number of bouncing cheques was recorded in January which witnessed 43,000 cases of bouncing cheques with a value was JD 37.2 million. An official source attributed the rise in the number of bouncing cheques to the slowdown in the trade movement, which has already been suffering a deep recession for the past two years. The source said most merchants issue cheques based on speculations of future flow of cash. Bouncing cheques in 1994 totalled 435,000 worth JD 372.1 million, reflecting an increase of 30 per cent over the year before (Al Ra'i).

\*\* THE JORDAN Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company received 26,600 tonnes of tomatoes from Jordan Valley farmers since the beginning of the tomato season in May, company Director General Khalidoun Al Nasser said. Mr. Nasser said the company paid the farmers JD 970,000 for the amount (Al Ra'i).

\*\* Jordan and the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed three agreements under which the Kingdom will receive loans worth 38 million European currency units (ECUs) (\$45 million) to finance several development projects. Under the agreements, 20 million ECUs will be presented to the Jordan Electricity Company to enhance the electricity generation power in the Greater Amman area, 13 million ECUs to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to be used in carrying out water and sewerage network projects in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid, Souf, Mahees and Fubais and five million ECUs to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to repair water networks in Mafraq and Ajloun (Al Ra'i).

\*\* The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company will import in the next few days about 100,000 new gas cylinders. Company sources said that this amount, in addition to the output from the local factory producing cylinders will be enough to meet the entire local market needs (Al Ra'i).

\*\* The 35 Jordanian companies which took part in the International Moscow Fair recently succeeded in concluding JD 2 million deals with Russian companies. (Al Dustour)

## Saudi five-year plan to cut state dominance

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's government has approved an ambitious plan for the next five years to reduce dependence on oil and slash subsidies in an economy that has so far been largely state-driven.

The cabinet on Monday night approved the sixth economic plan for Muslim calendar years 1415 to 1420 (1995-2000), which also aims to enhance the role of the private sector, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

A draft of the plan obtained by Reuters earlier showed its priorities reflect the kingdom's pledge to balance revenues and expendi-

ture and largely eliminate subsidies for the years 1995 to 2000.

It said priorities included rationalising "government expenditure and (making) the national economy more dependent on private sector activities."

It said Saudi Arabia intended to "reduce dependence on the production and export of crude oil as the main source of national income."

SPA quoted Planning Minister Abdul-Wahab Bin Abdul-Salam Attar as saying the plan "will work for increasing the contribution of the private sector in making

jobs available and diversify the base of the economy to lessen dependence on oil revenue."

The draft also says the government should reduce production costs of public services and utilities and "privatise" the system of direct and indirect subsidies provided by the state.

Saudi Arabia, which has been running budget deficits since 1982, exports about seven million of its eight million barrel per day oil production. It has already cut subsidies to farmers and raised prices on utilities from power to water.

The world's largest oil ex-

porter and producer recorded a \$10.7 billion deficit in 1994 mainly due to weak oil prices despite cutting the budget by 20 per cent.

The current \$40 billion budget carries a \$4 billion deficit which official sources expect to be wiped out by the end of the year if oil prices remain higher than forecast in the budget.

The 1995 budget projected oil income at about \$33 billion up from \$32 billion. The kingdom has earned about \$2.3 billion above forecast oil revenue in the first five months of 1995, economic sources told Reuters.

## Israeli high-tech export zone snagged by red tape

TEL AVIV (R) — Three years ago, 20 of the top Jewish businessmen in the United States made Israel an offer few countries could refuse.

They would fund construction of a lowtax, high-tech export zone on 250 hectares in Israel's southern Negev Desert. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave the go-ahead for the project, expected to create 20,000 new jobs.

The fact of the matter is that the companies we had lined up are finding other countries and other zones to move. The world won't wait for Israel," he said.

Sprint International, Electronic Data Systems, Lotus Development Corporation, Petro Systems Corporation, Deloitte and Touche Accounting and the German Firm Factor are among companies which are interested in operating in the zone, Mr. Yerushalmi said.

A tender for the zone has yet to be issued and 20 per cent of the companies which had agreed to operate under the original investor group have already backed out, project organisers say.

The politicians are talking about eliminating the bureaucracy, but nothing changes on the ground," said David Yerushalmi, a co-American-Israeli who heads the original investor group. Mr. Yerushalmi cited a 31 per cent drop to \$519 million

Mr. Yerushalmi said pub-

lication of the tender had been delayed by mid-level bureaucrats from government agencies who offered no explanation for their objections to the zone. He said their frequent complaints have taken weeks to resolve.

The zone, to be run by an autonomous council, will draw on Israel's highly-educated labour pool. It is planned as a haven from the notoriously high taxes and dense bureaucracy that have been Israel's chief barriers to attracting foreign firms.

Companies operating in the zone are to be subject to only a 15 per cent flat tax on profits taken out of Israel.

Part of the delay has stemmed from a lawsuit filed last March by residents of Omer, a town near the zone site.

They say the area will harm the environment and contest planning procedures. The lawsuit is expected by Augus-

A spokesman for the finance ministry, which is overseeing the zone's creation, said the bureaucratic difficulties were simply the growing pains of a new, more open Israeli economy.

"It takes a bit more time

than we thought," explained Boaz Roday, an adviser to finance Minister Abraham Shohai. "We don't have the zone yet, that's why we have the bureaucracy."

Mr. Roday said a tender for the zone would be issued as soon as the lawsuit was settled.

Anxious investors, counting lost revenues from the delays, predict that once the zone finally gets going, it will generate \$1 billion in revenues in its first eight years.

The group which wins development rights will finance construction of the area's infrastructure and assume responsibility for attracting companies to operate in its 1.4 million square metres of work space.

At least three companies, including Mr. Yerushalmi and another led by Israelis, are preparing to bid for development rights, a project official said.

Mr. Yerushalmi said that under his group's plan, most goods produced in the zone would be sold in European and U.S. markets. Potential products include research and development, teleservicing and telemarketing and digital processing.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SIMEISAN					
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 04/07/1995					
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	TRADED	PREV. CLOSING JD	CLOSING PRICE	INDEX NUMBER
ARAB BANK P.I.L.	440	96170	219.500	218.500	181.11
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	12139	55419	4.570	4.550	
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1700	5632	3.270	3.330	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1000	1355	1.360	1.360	
THE HOUSING BANK	474	1217	2.560	2.570	
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	2150	17523	8.200	8.180	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT BANK	11000	14129	1.320	1.320	
JORDAN PLATINUM BANK	1000	928	4.000	3.950	
BUSINESS BANK	2154	8097	3.780	3.760	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1000	3950	3.950	3.950	
REIT SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	1041	4422	4.290	4.250	
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	1600	6028	3.720	3.790	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	23250	26345	1.340	1.340	
	11700	19391	1.670	1.660	
BANKS SECTOR	70368	262196	INDEX NUMBER : 181.11	CHANGE : -0.38%	
GENERAL INSURANCE	2041	6547	3.260	3.260	
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	350	915	2.600	2.630	
KARDO INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	1100	3586	3.100	3.260	
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	250	650	2.600	2.600	
INSURANCE SECTOR	3799	12038	INDEX NUMBER : 135.51	CHANGE : +0.47%	
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	19416	33665	1.730	1.740	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	150	878	6.050	5.850	
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	13650	38595	2.800	2.820	
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	6085	14245	2.000	2.000	
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1000	3060	1.050	1.020	
THE JORDAN TRADING CENTER	4280	5087	1.170	1.200	
MACHINERY EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE	500	335	.660	.670	
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS	83000	190085	2.290	2.300	
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	2350	7925	3.360	3.370	
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	1000	1280	1.250	1.280	
SERVICES SECTOR	133431	295503	INDEX NUMBER : 132.75	CHANGE : -0.47%	
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	3818	14508	3.820	3.800	
JORDAN PROSPECTIVE MINES	3050	9315	3.080	3.040	
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	1591	16616	10.470	10.420	
JORDAN TANNING	100	150	8.000	8.000	
THE JORDAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1637	3522	3.400	3.390	
THE JORDAN WOOLSTEX MILLS	800	6361	8.000	7.950	
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	14537	73122	5.030	5.030	
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	1100	5600	6.000	6.000	
JORDAN PIPELINES MANUFACTURING	1850	4886	2.440	2.440	
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	1000	1120	3.800	3.800	
DAD AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	500	1253	2.480	2.500	
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	200	1573	7.870	7.870	
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	532	404	.770	.760	
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	1711	9872	5.760	5.770	
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	3300	4620	1.410	1.400	
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	548	6510	1.000	1.000	
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	150	570	2.350	2.300	
ARAB CHEMICALS & MACHINERY	700	1592	2.240	2.300	
KANTHER INVESTMENT	150	225	1.550	1.500	
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	500	1625	3.270	3.250	
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	800	17679	2.200	2.200	
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	7517	14863	1.350	1.350	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	160161	260254	INDEX NUMBER : 131.85	CHANGE : -0.46%	
GRAND TOTAL	367759	829991	INDEX NUMBER : 156.73	CHANGE : -0.40%	
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 213887					
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET : 217979					

**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**

**STUDIO HAIR**  
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service  
Develop your colour film at our shop and get...

**FOR RENT**  
Deluxe Villas & Apartments in Amman  
in Amman

**SANABEL REAL ESTATE**  
Tel. 864230  
Fax. 864231

**Euro Dollar RENT A CAR**  
Make Car Rental Simple  
Shmeisani Tel: 681113 688816 For Rent - For Rent

**NOTHING FAR WITH RELIABLE RENT A CAR**  
RELIABLE ABDOUN 819676

**OSRAM**  
Quality in Lamps, lighting and electrical materials  
OSRAM Germany  
SCHWABE Germany  
WOFI Germany  
LEUCI Italy  
ERIC Italy  
PUK Italy  
AND OTHERS

**CRYSTAL**  
Your Address in Amman

**TURINO**  
Turin for Taste 863944

**VILLA D'ANGELO**  
Authentic Italian Restaurant  
Jabal Amman Tel: 638212 Air-conditioned Lounge and Outside Terrace

**FOR YOUR Advertisement In Jordan Times Call tel: 667171 ext. 223**

**Karl Lagerfeld Sale UP TO 50% BADIA BOUTIQUE**  
Ext: Rainbow St. Tel: 657094

**DAJANI'S Unique gold & gems jewelry.**

## Olajuwon is in Amman

By Aleen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — NBA superstar Hakeem "the dream" Olajuwon is now in Amman, and basketball fans cannot wait to see the world's best player display some of his skills in the Jordanian capital.

At a press conference Tuesday, Olajuwon said he was on his way to Saudi Arabia to perform the Umra pilgrimage and said Amman would be yearly stopover for him as he intended to make it a yearly trip.

"I am very happy to be in Jordan, it is a beautiful country. The people are wonderful and I plan to come here next year too. I'm having a great vacation."

Asked about how he became the world's top player, Olajuwon said: "I have accomplished a lot in the U.S. I believe Islam, as a way of life, enabled me to have a better understanding of everything. It took my game to another level. I'm happy with my life."

Olajuwon who led the Houston Rockets to their second straight NBA title this year with 4-0 win over Orlando Magic said he hoped to assist Jordanian basketball in his future trips. But he did not confirm if he would be playing in Amman this time although informed sources told the Jordan Times the superstar might appear in a charity exhibition on



Hakeem Olajuwon #34 of the Houston Rockets in NBA action earlier this year (AP photo)

Thursday or Friday.

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Olajuwon left for the U.S. in 1980 and excelled in college basketball with teammate Clyde Drexler.

Olajuwon transformed the Houston Rockets 1982-83 worst ever team to an NBA finalist in just his second season after being drafted in 1984 by the Houston Rockets and was runner-up to Michael Jor-

dan for rookie of the year. He led the NBA in rebounds and blocked shots in the 1989-90 season and played his seventh consecutive NBA all-star game in 1991. In 1992 he was runner-up to Charles Barkley of the Phoenix Suns for the title of Most Valuable Player (MVP). He was named NBA MVP in 1994 and also in the recently concluded 1995 season.

## Women's Basketball

### Al Jala' win 1st match

By Aleen Bannayan  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's women's basketball team Monday lost their first match 69-51 to Syrian champions Al Jala' who are on a week-long visit to the Kingdom.

The Kingdom's team were playing their first official match after being regrouped earlier this year. However they clearly demonstrated the ill-effects of the women's national team's 12-year absence from the basketball scene. Al Jala's coherent lineup took the first half 38-22, but the Jordanian team made a good comeback in the second half which they lost 31-29, therefore losing the match on the score difference Al Jala' built in the first half.

While Al Jala' depended on Karen Abdulnour and Elo Mouradian, Jordan's Jumana Salti carried the burden of scoring and rebounding capping a perfect match with 28 points. Syria's Karla Maghames scored 20 for her team followed by Abdulnour with 12 and Mouradian with 11.

Al Jala' led 10-7 at the beginning but took a good lead in three minutes relying on a press defence to outscore the Jordanian team 14-0 and take a 24-7 lead.

Playing together for the first time, Jordan's women seemed panicky causing many turnovers to keep Al Jala's lead 36-18.

Jordan's Salti cut the Syrian team's lead in the second half to 42-32, but Al Jala' again scored to lead 51-32. Salti then scored 11 consecutive points to reduce Al Jala's lead, but Jordan missed the efforts of Sohair Makous who did not play most of the second half with a slight injury.

Al Jala' currently lead the standings in the Syrian League and will play a three-round playoff against titleholders Al Horrieh and Al Oourouba clubs starting July 19.

In a post match statement Al Jala's coach Nidal Farra told the Jordan Times he was happy with his team's performance: "We are just out



Jordan's Jumana Salti goes for a layup

of our league's matches and the team is very coherent, and ready unlike yours."

The four matches with Al Jala' are intended to put the finishing touches on the Kingdom's team's preparations for the upcoming Asian Basketball Championship which will be held in Shizuoka, Japan July 23-30.

Citing a cash-strapped budget, the JBF cancelled another four matches against a Ukrainian team.

Al Jala' have a 3-0 record over Jordanian teams and includes: Rana Hussein, Tala Mauje, Jumana Salti, Hala Muheisen, Shuhair Makous, Ameera Qassieh, Tetzane Qardan, Hind Ghouri, Sirsa Naghaway, Dima Shaded, Zein Sha'sha, Rania Al Dajani, Jihan Abdulnour also joined the team on Monday after taking leave from her work in Beirut.

#### Schedule of matches

Thursday 6/7 Jala vs. Jordan Orthodox court 7:30 p.m.  
Friday 7/7 Jala vs. Jordan Orthodox court 7:30 p.m.

**TODAY**

**CINEMA**  
**PHILADELPHIA**

Sharon Stone,  
William Baldwin  
& Tom Berenger  
in

**Sliver**

Showtimes: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

**CINEMA**  
**PLAZA**

Bruce Willis ... in  
**Colour Of  
Night**

Showtimes: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

## Australian authorities deny Olympic pollution claims

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian authorities Tuesday rejected an environmentalist's claims that they faced toxic clean up problems at the proposed Olympic village site of the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

Sydney plans to host the "Green Games" at Homebush Bay, 14 kilometres west of the city centre, by cleaning up a former industrial area that once housed a naval armaments depot, abattoir and brickworks quarry.

But Kate Short, a member of the committee which drew up environmental guidelines for the Games, said the size of the problem could cause a blowout in costs for the state government of New South Wales.

Short told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation television that the scale of

toxicity in Homebush Bay, around two kilometres from the Games site, and around the proposed Olympic village had been covered up.

Michael Knight, Olympic minister in the state government, summoned international news agencies to a special briefing to deny the television report's claims.

He agreed that sediment in the bay itself was contaminated with dioxins from a former Union Carbide plant, but noted the bay was "a considerable distance" from Olympic venues and the government had acknowledged the problem in 1988.

The state government had embarked on a one million Australian dollar (\$710,000) study to investigate remediating the situation, he said, although there were "no

great solutions" known of in the world.

"In a broad environmental perspective it would be preferable for it (the bay) to be fixed, (but) it is not central to the Olympics, it poses no threat to the athletes or to spectators," Knight said.

He said the dioxins, highly toxic chemicals, posed a risk only to fish and those who ate them.

Knight said the clean-up of Olympic Park where athletes would compete was almost finished and had been achieved under budget at a cost of \$46.5 million.

Contaminated land on the 260-hectare (642-acre) site of the Olympic village, which would be sold as homes after the Games, would be cleaned up before 2000, he added.

Short told the television programme, screened Thursday, that people were not

in what had been billed as a Green Olympics.

"I still think that there is a commitment from the Olympic people for the Green Games, but I don't think there's enough of an understanding about the extent of toxic chemical pollution and the cost of remediation," she said.

"That has all been completely swept under the carpet."

But Knight said the state government had been open.

"There was no deception in terms of bid documents, no deception in terms of the IOC (International Olympic Committee), in fact one of the cornerstones of our bid was that we were turning an environmental wasteland into a magnificent sporting and recreational facility," he said.

## Sanchez Vicario reaches semifinals for first time

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario reached her first Wimbledon semifinal Tuesday with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Brenda Schultz-McCarthy.

The second-seeded Spaniard was down a break in both sets against the 15th-seeded Dutchwoman but rallied to win each time.

The tiebreaker went with serve until Schultz-McCarthy mishit a volley to give Sanchez Vicario a 6-4 lead. The match ended on the next point with another error by Schultz-McCarthy.

The victory marked a breakthrough for Sanchez Vicario, who had failed to progress past the quarterfinals in eight previous Wimbledon appearances. She reached the quarters three times, in 1989, 1991 and 1995 and

Sanchez Vicario will face the winner of the quarterfinal match between defending champion Conchita Martinez and Gabriela Sabatini.

In later matches, top-seeded and five-time champion Steffi Graf was set to face No. 13 Mary Joe Fernandez, with No. 4 Jana Novotna playing No. 6 Kimiko Date — the first Japanese woman ever to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

The men's quarterfinals are set for Wednesday.

Two-time defending champion Pete Sampras will face Shuzo Matsukata, the first Japanese man to progress this far at a Grand Slam event since Jiro Sato reached the Wimbledon semifinals in 1993.

The other matches are: Top-seeded Andre Agassi against Jacco Eltingh, No. 3 Boris Becker vs. Cedric Pioline, and No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic against No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

Meanwhile, American doubles star Murphy Jensen telephoned relatives Tuesday to say he was safe and well, a day after he failed to show up for a mixed doubles match and disappeared without explanation.

His mother, Patricia, and brother, Luke, said he had telephoned his sister in Atlanta to say he was in London and was fine. They said they still did know whereabouts or the circumstances of his disappearance.

"We're not sure why he did it," Luke Jensen said. "I'm very relieved. It wasn't any kind of kidnapping or any kind of physical accident."

On Monday, Sampras posted a 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 victory over Greg Rusedski, who flashed his toothy grin throughout the match.

While Rusedski tried his best to engage the crowd, Sampras never wavered from his serious demeanor as he went about winning his 18th consecutive match at Wimbledon to reach the quarterfinals.

"I was trying to wipe the smile off his face," Sampras said.

To which Rusedski replied: "I'm sorry to say he's never going to wipe that smile off my face, no matter what."

"I'm going to have fun out there," he said. "It doesn't matter. If Pete's not going to want to smile or show his



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

celebrations, that's fine by me."

The Canadian-born Rusedski, who switched his allegiance to Britain in May, instantly became the No. 1 player and crowd favourite in a country that hasn't had a Wimbledon men's champion since 1936.

"The people have been so wonderful and given so much to me these past few weeks," he said. "Every match had something special for me. It was just so great."

"Even to play Sampras today, to lose in three sets, was a dream match for me. I now know how it feels to play probably the best grass-court in our generation on Centre Court. It's just been a wonderful experience, everything."

Rusedski said Sampras — who broke the Canadian-Britain four times when never losing his own serve — "wanted to prove something today."

Sampras wouldn't say it, but he all but admitted that he was eager to put Rusedski in his place.

He tugged his cap over his face, smiled wryly and declined to comment when asked whether players thought Rusedski "was getting a bit big for his britches."

Sampras found plenty to fault in Rusedski's game.

"I think there are some errors in his game that he might have to improve," he said. "He's obviously got a big serve, but if you get it back, he's pretty average. He doesn't really return that well. He's got some time to improve, but he has a couple of holes in his game."

"I was trying to wipe the smile off his face," Sampras said.

Agassi's see-through shorts: Andre Agassi, who has been quizzed on seemingly every detail about his relationship with Brooke Shields, found himself discussing a new topic Monday: His shorts.

Easy decisions: Having captured the hearts of British fans with three victories before a valiant defeat to Pete Sampras, Montreal-born Greg Rusedski was named to his adopted country's victory-starred Davis Cup team for Wimbledon. It could be a sign of things to come.

Rising stars: For the first time in Wimbledon history, there are Japanese players in contention in both the men's and women's quarterfinals at Wimbledon. It could be a sign of things to come.

The July 14-16 relegation

match will be the Davis Cup debut for Rusedski, labeled a mercenary by some in the tennis community after being granted permission to play for Britain two months ago by the international tennis federation.

"After what he's done this week, I think we should just forget where he comes from, put 'GB' after his name, and feel lucky we've got a top 60 player," British captain David Lloyd said.

Rusedski's change of allegiance upset many British players, notably Chris Wilkins, who was left off the team after saying he would not play with Rusedski.

Britain has lost six consecutive Davis Cup matches, and defeat to Monaco would sink the country to Euro-African Zone Group Three — the lowest possible level in the competition.

Joining Rusedski on the team are 122nd-ranked Mark Petchey, 174th-ranked Tim Henman and unranked doubles specialist Neil Broad.

Dick Norman's streak: Dick Norman's streak of victories over Wimbledon champions came to an end when he ran into three-time titlist Boris Becker.

Before warming up with coach Brad Gilbert, Agassi went over to Gilbert's son, Zachary, and meticulously fitted one of his new, Nike-swoosh "do-rags" one the 6-year-old boy's head.

Zachary wore the white bandana throughout Agassi's victory as he watched the match from the centre court guest box, cradled in his father's lap.

Those who can't get enough of Agassi trivia might be interested to know that his girlfriend, Brooke Shields, and Gilbert's wife, Kim, relaxed after the match with a snack of tea and scones in the players' cafeteria.

"I play with Dean Goldfarb, Patrick Galbraith's coach, against Robert and Patrik, and they beat us every time," says Martin.

"But Robert can't play cards very long against me. He says he sees too much of me as it is."

Shuzo Matsukata after his 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory over American Michael Joyce.

Matsuoka, the first Japanese man since Jiro Sato in 1933 to advance to the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam event, will likely get his wish for a match on one of the major showcourts. His next opponent is two-time defending champion Pete Sampras.

Meanwhile, sixth-seeded Kimiko Date became the first Japanese woman ever to advance to the Wimbledon quarterfinals when she beat Maria Sharapova of South Africa 6-1, 2-6, 6-2.

Hollywood has twice come to Wimbledon — even if mercurial Romanian Ilie Nastase refused to lose camera.

In 1967, Rod Taylor and Christopher Plummer took to Wimbledon for action in the Royal Box for "nobody runs forever."

In 1978, it was the turn of "the players" starring Dino Martin, son of crooner Dino Martin, and Ali McGraw.

Among the real players participating in the picture, Nastase was true to form. His pride was too great to admit defeat, but he settled for "retired hunt" when knocked out of the fictional tournament.

\* Martin's master: Tennis coaches are not supposed to beat their pupils so it was a bit surprising when Todd Martin, Wimbledon semi-finalist last year, admitted that coach Robert Van Hout soundly thrashed him every night.

But the bearded American was not talking about tennis, but about

## Cipollini wins 2nd stage as Jalabert takes charge

VITRE, France (R) — French rider Laurent Jalabert sported a big smile and the leader's yellow jersey after the second stage of the Tour de France on Monday, one year to the day after a terrible accident left him with the hives.

A brilliant display of riding in the 235-kilometre Brittany stage from Perros-Guirec helped Jalabert take the race lead from compatriot Jacky Durand and obliterate the memory of his mishap in last year's tour.

On July 3 last year Jalabert, who had started the tour with great hopes of success, crashed with Belgian Wifield Nelissen in a sprint finish in Armentières and was taken to hospital with blood pouring from head wounds.

"This is a great present for an anniversary," the delighted Frenchman said at the end of a stage won in a sprint finish by Italian speed ace Mario Cipollini.

"The 3rd of July is a date I will remember all my life. I won't be able to forget it for two very different reasons — and I prefer this one to be quite frank."

"In the career of a rider, the yellow jersey is something very special and you have to do everything you can to get it."

Jalabert, the form rider of the season with a compelling series of victories including Paris-Nice, Milan-San Remo, the Critérium International and the Tour of Catalonia, certainly did everything within his power.

Seven seconds behind Durand at the start, he finished two seconds in a time bonus by placing third in the first intermediate sprint and won the second to gain a further six seconds, taking a theoretical one-second lead over the leader.

When the last sprint came, Belgian Eric Vanderaerden and Dutchman Frans Massen had broken away but two seconds for third place were still up for grabs and Durand went for it, knowing he could grab back the advantage.

But Jalabert is in a state of grace these days and he chased his compatriot down, swept

past him with consummate ease and had time to look back as he sauntered nonchalantly over the intermediate line to extend his advantage by two more seconds.

Jalabert and his Spanish once team also featured strongly in a late break by a group of riders who finished 19 seconds ahead of the main peloton in which Durand was stranded.

Cipollini, the Italian playboy with long flowing blond locks and a pronounced preference for relaxing on the beach rather than training on a bike, was the fastest of the finishing bunch as he pulled off his 15th sprint win of the season — but curiously only his

### Tour de France

second ever on the tour.

He beat off compatriot Giovanni Lombardi and the Uzbek dynamo Djambulat Abdoujaparov to win in five hours 26 minutes 35 seconds.

Cipollini, unable to go for victory in a mass sprint finish to Sunday's first stage because he was suffering from a viral infection, joked after Monday's triumph: "If I can win when I've got a fever, what will I be like when I'm feeling better?"

Race favourites Miguel Indurain and Tony Rominger played their cards right and joined the late breakaway. Rominger is 11th overall, 29 seconds behind Jalabert, with Indurain 15th a further five seconds back.

But both may have some reason to worry about the on-form Jalabert, whose strong once team could well help him to increase his lead in the team trial third stage over 67 kilometres from Mayenne to Alençon.

Jalabert, once thought of as a sprint specialist, has widened his repertoire this season, is much more at ease in the climbs than before and will be difficult to dislodge now he has the yellow jersey:

"My form has always improved during the course of the season and for me in this tour it's just going to get better," he said.

## Collymore breaks British transfer record

LIVERPOOL (AP) — Stan Collymore became the most expensive player in British soccer history Tuesday when he completed his £8.5 million (\$12.8 million) paid by Manchester United for Newcastle's Andy Cole last season.

"Eight-and-a-half million is eight-and-a-half million but, at the end of the day, Liverpool bought me to play football on the pitch, not to run around saying 'I'm an 8.5-million-pound footballer,'" Collymore told a press conference at Anfield Stadium.

"I'm sure tabloid journalists will have a field day if I have a bad game, but I'm big enough and old enough to really go out and enjoy my football."

Collymore's rise has been truly meteoric since the late 1980s, when he played part-time for Stafford and supplemented his income by working in a supermarket.

Collymore joined the full-time ranks in December 1990 when Crystal Palace invested £100,000 (\$160,000) in him, but his playing time was limited at Selhurst Park and he moved to lower-division club Southend during the 1992-93 season.

Collymore scored 15 goals in 30 games at Southend, enough for Forest manager Frank Clark to sign him for \$2.2 million (£3.52 million) during the 1993 offseason.

Collymore responded with 50 goals — 25 in both his seasons in Nottingham — and earned a place on the England national team.

"Tuesday's record deal has one sticking point: Collymore is demanding a £425,000 (\$680,000) slice of the transfer fee, something that Clark vetoed. The minister is expected to be resolved when Clark returns from vacation.

Liverpool manager Roy Evans sees Collymore as the player to spark the team's UEFA Cup campaign next season.

## Tennis great Pancho Gonzales dies at 67

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Pancho Gonzales, one of the greatest and most colourful players in tennis history, died of cancer at age 67 in Las Vegas, Nev., his brother said Tuesday.

Ralph Gonzales told the Associated Press that his older brother died Monday night at Sunrise Hospital after stomach cancer had spread throughout his body.

"We had a terrific report from doctors three weeks ago," he said. "Everything seemed to be going so well. But a week ago Wednesday he became sick and he entered the hospital. He just deteriorated very quickly. The cancer showed up in his ribs and all over his body. At the end, he didn't suffer much."

Gonzales was known for his temper and competitive nature, but also for his sportsmanship and dignified bearing.

"He was such a fiery competitor, and he would show some temper on the court against you," Pasarell said. "But he was the idol everybody wanted to emulate."

Gonzales staged another classic comeback to win his 1949 U.S. singles title in another marathon, beating top-seeded Ted Schroeder 16-18, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

"My control of matches was to penetrate, create a weakness and attack," Gonzales said.

He beat South African Eric Sturgess to win the 1948 U.S. title.

Pasarell recalled Gonzales



Rawdat Al-Ma'aref Schools & College hosted the external examiners board from the Northern Consortium in Britain. It consisted of Mr. Brian Jeremiah, Dr. Alan Smith and Mr. David Murphy. The board monitored the procedures of the examination and verified the outstanding results with an overwhelming 100% success. All of the students have been accepted by the university of their choice and the subject of interest.

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
9-18 ♠ V988 OK1084 ♦A72

The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ ♦A72

What do you bid now?

A.—It is tempting to bid three no

but if you have already bid

a diamond stopper, we prefer a bid of

three hearts to highlight the quality

of your low suit.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
9-18 ♠ VAK1084 Q1084 ♦AQ98

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West  
1 ♠ ♦A72

What do you bid now?

A.—If you think partner is bidding

out of weakness, take another look

at the auction. North did not raise

## Morceli breaks 2,000 metres world record

PARIS (AP) — Another year. Another world record for Noureddine Morceli.

It's getting to be a yearly habit for the Algerian.

He set the world record for 2,000 metres Monday at the Paris De France Grand Track meet with a time of 47.88 seconds.

The old record was 4:50.81

by Said Aouita of Morocco in 1987, at the last major regular season meet in Paris.

"I know I had the world record in my legs," Morceli said. "Last week I did 3:32 for 1,500 in St. Petersburg (Russia) in very bad weather conditions."

Morceli now has the world records in the 1,500 (3:28.82 in 1992), mile (3:44.30 in 1993) and 3,000 (7:25.11 in 1994) in addition to the 2,000

this year.

He refused to single out

any of them as his favourite.

"I respect them all. Only one person can be a world champion or record holder in any event, and it takes a lot of work to be one," Morceli said.

Morceli now has the

world record in the 1,500 (3:28.82 in 1992), mile (3:44.30 in 1993) and 3,000 (7:25.11 in 1994) in addition to the 2,000

this year.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He didn't rule out more

world records in the future,

although he was taking a

practical attitude.

Morceli ran alone for the

last 600 and passed the 1,500

in 3:36.89 and the mile in

approximately 3:54. His last

400 was 55.0.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

rounded by Algerian fans waving national flags as he took his victory lap.

He fell to the ground after

the finish line and was sur-

## Israelis, Palestinians sign to share Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israelis and Palestinians launched a campaign Tuesday to make "Our Jerusalem" the capital of two states living side by side in peace.

Four hundred public figures, artists, intellectuals, lawyers and journalists have signed the foundation statement in direct opposition to Israeli government policy.

"Our Jerusalem is a mosaic of all the cultures, all the religions and all the periods that enriched the city," read the statement, issued at a press conference.

"Our Jerusalem must be united, open to all and belonging to all its inhabitants, without borders and barbed-wire."

"Our Jerusalem must be the capital of the two states that will live side by side in this country — West Jerusalem the capital of the State of Israel and East Jerusalem the capital of the State of Palestine."

Former left-wing deputy and peace activist Uri Avneri explained: "The idea of this is that we are going to break the taboo on discussing the future of Jerusalem."

"We believe and the majority of Israelis believe that there will be no peace without a compromise on Jerusalem."

"We are going to organise in September an international conference on the subject of 5,000 years of Jerusalem."

The aim was to counter an

official Jerusalem 3,000 festival later this year designed to reinforce the Jewish character of the city.

Faisal Husseini, the unofficial Palestinian minister for the Holy City, signed the petition and looked forward to the day when Jerusalem could be seen as the capital of the Middle East.

"This document clearly states that when I say Jerusalem is ours, it means both us and them, and when they say it is theirs, it means the same thing," explained Mr. Husseini.

The Israeli government has pledged to negotiate the future of the city as part of final status talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by May 1996.

On Monday, Israeli police arrested three Palestinian guards at the Orient House after snipers outside the PLO's headquarters in East Jerusalem, police said.

They said one of the guards was accused of attacking a right-wing Israeli activist as he filmed the building and then of slightly injuring a border guard who tried to separate them.

The three Palestinians were detained to identify the assailant.

Witnesses said earlier that bodyguards stopped an armed Jewish settler from attacking Mr. Husseini.

They intervened when the man lunged at Mr. Husseini, shouting, "You're a killer, you're a terrorist."

## Asian 'Biscuit King' is arrested

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Former Asian "Biscuit King" Rajan Pillai, who faces up to 14 years in prison in Singapore for fraud, was jailed here on Tuesday ahead of a legal battle over his extradition.

Mr. Pillai, 47, who was arrested at a five-star hotel in the capital late Monday, was led away to New Delhi's maximum-security Tihar prison after a special magistrate remanded him to judicial custody for a day.

A spokesman for the Central Bureau of Investigation

(CBI) said Mr. Pillai would be produced again Wednesday in the court of Special Magistrate M.I. Mehta, who hears trials related to international extradition cases.

"The hearing will reopen tomorrow, although the ultimate decision on his extradition rests with the government," spokesman S.M. Khan said.

He added that Mr. Pillai, who fled to India nearly three months ago following his conviction on fraud charge in Singapore, had been arrested in a raid by CBI agents on a

luxury hotel about midnight Monday.

CBI launched a country-wide hunt for Mr. Pillai on behalf of Interpol after his bail was cancelled by an Indian court on June 22, Mr. Khan said, adding that the fugitive had registered in the hotel under an assumed name.

"This was one of the most important operations undertaken by the Interpol in India in recent times," the spokesman said. CBI represents the international police organisation in the country.

## Journalist says PLO held Israeli soldiers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jordanian journalist claimed Tuesday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) held captured and still-missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon in the 1980s.

Haroun Mahemid, a former reporter for Jordan Television, said he visited the stronghold of PLO military commander Khalil Al Wazir, or Abu Jihad, in Lebanon in 1982 and saw and played cards with four Israeli soldiers.

The PLO denied any knowledge of the fate of six Israeli soldiers who went missing in Lebanon in the 1980s, and Israeli officials believed they were captured by non-PLO factions or Islamic fundamentalist groups.

Despite the absence of conclusive evidence, families of the missing Israelis have long claimed they were alive and that the government was not doing enough to press the PLO, now a partner in peace talks, for information.

Mr. Mahemid said Abu Jihad was holding two groups of Israeli soldiers near the Lebanese town of Zahle. He could only identify one soldier, American-born Zachary Baumel, who disappeared in 1982 during a tank battle in Lebanon in 1982 and was last seen with four Israeli soldiers.

Spokesman of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party, Hamzeh Mansour said the party would only say that

the PLO gave half of Baumel's identification tag to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1993, but never publicly explained how it was obtained.

Mr. Mahemid said the soldiers were in PLO custody until 1986, when he lost track of them. He said he believes they may have been killed or captured by pro-Syrian factions.

PLO officials did not immediately return phone calls on Tuesday from the Associated Press.

## Iran: Afghan war on offence against Islam

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has slammed the civil war in Afghanistan as an offence against Islam and urged Shiite Muslims there to keep out of the fighting. "The civil war or fighting between political, ethnic or religious Afghan factions is haram and must end," he said in a message to the Afghan people, state radio reported Tuesday. He added "the Shites and all the Afghans of all tendencies and allegiances must no longer clash." The message was read out Monday in a Kabul mosque by an envoy sent by Ayatollah Khamenei, the radio said. He accused "foreign parties" without naming them of being behind the civil war and called on the various Afghan factions to "put aside their" political differences.

## Turkmen president in Iran to discuss pipeline

TEHRAN (AFP) — Turkmenistan's President Saparmurat Niazov arrived here Tuesday to promote the construction of a pipeline to transport natural gas from his country to Europe via Iran, the official IRNA news agency said. "Iran and Turkmenistan will exchange views on this project," Mr. Niazov said on arrival at Tehran airport where he was met by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Mr. Niazov added that his country was "firmly" determined to realise this project and expressed the hope that the pipeline would be completed in two years. The president of the former Soviet republic also tried to squash rumours that Turkmenistan had come under "foreign pressure to abandon" the project with Iran, IRNA said. The Iranian president said the two heads of state would also discuss issues concerning the Commonwealth of Independent States — made up of the former Soviet republics.

## Dehe warns Muslims must respect French laws

PARIS (AFP) — French Interior Minister Jean-Louis Dehe on Tuesday welcomed Islam as France's second religion, but warned that its followers must obey French laws and customs if they wished to join a united Muslim community. The new minister, meeting Islamic leaders following his appointment to the new French Muslim council to unite Muslim factions, he said he hoped the council "will be as broad as possible, and open to all Islamic groups." He was speaking at the main Paris mosque where he held talks with its rector Dalil Boubakeur. Mr. Boubakeur established the council amid concern among authorities of factionalisation and growing militancy within France's substantial Muslim community. Mr. Dehe stressed his support for the council, but added: "Only those who respect the laws of the republic and who practise tolerance, respect for others ... can be linked with you in this great task of unity. "That is the French tradition in cultural matters."



VICTORY: British Prime Minister John Major, with his wife Norma on his side, addresses a press conference outside 10 Downing Street in London on Tuesday after winning a challenge to his leadership of the Conservative Party. Mr.

Major announced that he would remain prime minister until the next elections and that he was planning a cabinet reshuffle on Wednesday (see page one) (Reuters photo)

## Pope rejects sanctions on Iraqis

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Vatican is opposed to economic sanctions when they punish innocent people in Iraq, especially women and children, he said: "Be assured that His Holiness prays for the peoples of Iraq and that the delay in implementing the redeployment agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, and the prisoners' hunger-strike,

events in Iraq very closely," he added.

Speaking of the "innocent victims of suffering" in Iraq, especially women and children, he said: "Be assured that His Holiness prays for the peoples of Iraq and that the delay in implementing the redeployment agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, and the prisoners' hunger-strike,

concerns."

The delegates were to meet senior Iraqi officials and visit hospitals.

Entitled "The Church in the Service of Peace and Humanity," the conference is aimed at "reaffirming Christian solidarity with the Iraqi people," one organiser said.

Also taking part in the conference are delegates from the Cyprus-based Middle East Council of Churches. The conference is organised by Iraqi churches and the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Around one million of Iraq's 18 million people are Christians.

Under U.N. resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must dismantle its weapons of mass destruction and abide by long-term monitoring before the oil embargo can be lifted.

He called for a "control of the humanitarian consequences of such sanctions so that they can be corrected where necessary." "The Holy Father follows

20 sentenced to death in Algeria

PARIS (Agencies) — An Algerian court was condemned 20 Muslim militant fugitives to death for murder, sabotage and membership of armed groups, the official Algerian news agency APS reported on Tuesday.

The criminal court in the eastern town of Tebessa sentenced the 20 men at two hearings held behind closed door on Saturday and Sunday, APS said.

The sentences brought to more than 70 the number of militants sentenced to death in absentia since February when the Algerian government scrapped special anti-terrorist courts.

Three special courts were set up in 1993 to streamline trials of those captured in the battle pitting armed Muslim militants against security forces.

Those courts, in Algiers, Oran and Constantine, condemned more than 1,000 militants to death, mostly in absentia, and drew criticism from lawyers and human rights activists.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in Algeria's civil strife since the army

## Centrists in force, IAF lukewarm and leftists trying luck in municipal polls

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Centrists are heading the vote for the first general municipal elections in the history of the Kingdom. Islamists want to keep a low profile. Leftists say they will try their luck.

Baumel's father Yonah — who appeared at a news conference with Mr. Mahemid on Tuesday — said he had "new information" that his son was alive a few months ago. He would not give more details.

The PLO gave half of Baumel's identification tag to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1993, but never publicly explained how it was obtained.

Mr. Mahemid said the soldiers were in PLO custody until 1986, when he lost track of them. He said he believes they may have been killed or captured by pro-Syrian factions.

PLO officials did not immediately return phone calls on Tuesday from the Associated Press.

respective governorates show that there is a considerable lack of enthusiasm. There is a general indifference to the elections although political parties and politicians agree on their importance.

"Political forces did not do their homework," said Tayseer Zibri, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party. "They left everything to the last minute."

In Mr. Zibri's opinion, political parties should have unified their efforts to achieve good results long ago. But they all left attempts for unification and coalitions to the forces in the constituencies, he said.

Leftist and Islamists, who have joined hands and efforts to fight normalisation of ties with Israel, are working separately now.

"Municipal elections are of paramount importance on all levels, but there is a considerable lack of interest in this poll," he said. "The fact that half of Amman's council's members are appointed by

the government adds to this indifference."

Ya'coub Zayadine, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, said: "There will be no coalition with parties but we will try to take an effective part in the elections."

The Communist Party is fielding 19 candidates, four of them women.

Abdulali Jazi, head of the elections committee of Al Ahd Party, refused to release the number of candidates the party is fielding, but said he was confident of their success.

Mr. Jazi said the party would make contacts with centrist, national forces and independents to hold the right candidates to the right post. "He said Al Ahd have candidates in most of the councils."

"The municipal elections are very important to us," he said. "Although it is the first time for us as a party, I'm sure that the results would be highly positive."

## COLUMN 8

### Hong Kong policewomen pack guns

HONG KONG (AFP) — Policewomen in Hong Kong began toting guns on duty Tuesday, now that their superiors have decided that their finger muscles are no weaker than those of male counterparts when it comes to pulling a trigger. Three women assigned to an emergency unit in Kowloon West were the first to pack service revolvers, police said in a statement, and they will be followed by another 19 in the territory in a week's time. Still more will join them in the coming months, as shooting becomes part of the regular training of a police women, under a pilot scheme that could see all female officers armed next year.

"The women at the Police Training School are undergoing the same training as the men and so far we have identified only minor problems which have been overcome with proper training," Assistant Commissioner for Training Dennis Shackleton said.

"For example, some women had difficulty in pulling the trigger with one finger — but this is also a problem for some male officers and is overcome by simple strengthening exercises," he said. Policemen in Hong Kong have frequently drawn their guns and opened fire, sometimes on crowded streets, as a growing number of criminals, particularly jewelry shop robbers, arm themselves with pistols smuggled from China.

Passengers were evacuated, with some initial disorder, but the device, found by a cleaning woman, was removed before it could work, officers said.

Police said they were treating it as a case of attempting murder, but there was no immediate link with the doomsday cult accused in the nerve gas attack that killed 12 people and sickened 5,500 others in Tokyo's subways in March.

Kyodo News Service said the amount of the chemicals found in the device could kill about 8,800 people if they were combined.

Passengers were told:

"Please get out right away as a time bomb is set in this station."

About four hours later, mysterious fumes were reported at a toilet in Tokyo's central railway station, and three people complained of teary eyes, police and fire officials said. Their condition was not immediately known. The Tokyo area has been hit by a series of similar cases in recent months. No serious injuries have been reported, and the source of the fumes has remained unexplained.

The gas device was found in a woman's toilet at the Kayabacho subway station by a cleaning woman who put it in her trash bag and reported to police, said a police official.

He said a timer was set to cut open and mix two vinyl bags of chemicals — one containing 1,500 grammes of liquid, possibly sulfuric acid, and the other 900 grammes of hydrocyanic acid sodium cyanide.

He said the timer was set to coincide with ceremonies due July 13 to mark the end of World War II. Prince Andrew's visit to Gibraltor, a tiny colony ceded to Britain by Spain in 1713, was in October 1993 when the Royal Navy minesweeper he commanded made a maintenance stop at the port.

### French are back on the bottle'

PARIS (AFP) — A long-term decline in wine consumption in France appears to have been halted, and drinkers may at last be returning to the traditional national tipple, according to a study. Between 1980 and 1991 the number of French drinkers abstaining completely from wine rocketed from 23 to 36 per cent, leading to fears that the country was giving in to pressures from its European neighbours, many of whom prefer beer. But over the last five years the number of non-wine drinkers has levelled off at around 35 per cent, while the number of habitual drinkers has stopped falling and occasional tipplers are up 15 per cent. The number of people drinking every day, which had dropped from 41 per cent to 23 per cent from 1980 to 1990, has now stabilised at about 22 per cent, it said.

IV (AP) — The Clinton administration has imposed import barriers on Wednesday, the darkest moments of the year. The United States imposed a ban on imports of nearly \$1 billion worth of goods from the European Union, including steel, aluminum, and other metals. The ban is intended to protect American industries from foreign competition.

IV (AP) — The Clinton administration has imposed import barriers on Wednesday, the darkest moments of the year. The United States imposed a ban on imports of nearly \$1 billion worth of goods from the European Union, including steel, aluminum, and other metals. The ban is intended to protect American industries from foreign competition.

IV (AP) — The Clinton administration has imposed import barriers on Wednesday, the darkest moments of the year. The United States imposed a ban on imports of nearly \$1 billion worth of goods from the European Union, including steel, aluminum, and other metals. The ban is intended to protect American industries from foreign competition.

IV (AP) — The Clinton administration has imposed import barriers on Wednesday, the darkest moments of the year. The United States imposed a ban on imports of nearly \$1 billion worth of goods from the European Union, including steel, aluminum, and other metals. The ban is intended to protect American industries from foreign competition.

IV (AP) — The Clinton administration has imposed import barriers on Wednesday, the darkest moments of the year. The United States imposed a ban on imports of nearly \$1 billion worth of goods from the European Union, including steel, aluminum, and other metals. The ban is intended to protect American industries from foreign competition.

IV (AP) — The Clinton administration has imposed import barriers on Wednesday, the darkest moments of the year. The United States imposed a ban on imports of nearly \$1 billion worth of goods